

September 22, 2022

The Honorable Ed Soliday, Co-Chair
The Honorable Eric A. Koch, Co-Chair
21st Century Energy Policy Development Task Force
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Representative Soliday and Senator Koch,

As a resident of Indiana Senate District 11 and House District 8, I write to urge you and your fellow members of the 21st Century Energy Policy Development Task Force to recommend that the Indiana General Assembly enact fair solar policies, like a real community solar program that would benefit all Hoosiers.

My father Fred was a plumber who started and grew his own business, paid union wages, and worked hard for the betterment of the family's future. He always said he wanted to be part of the solution, not the problem.

In 1981, seeing the future would be better served by diverse energy supplies, my dad embraced new ideas. He personally plumbed two solar devices on his rooftop to test renewable energy and to lead by example. Though the technology was embryonic, solar solutions were as needed then on a wide scale as they are today. In my father's time, the economics of solar energy hindered its widespread adoption; in my time, the Indiana Statehouse hinders people from doing the right thing.

Recently, I and a team (<http://projectilios.com>) of South Bend-area high school students have been preparing for their future by flying drones to image rooftops for the design and advancement of rooftop solar installations. Unfortunately, current Indiana energy policy will likely render their new skillset more useful outside of the Hoosier State.

I write to encourage you, as Co-Chairs of the Indiana 21st Century Energy Policy Development Task Force, to soften Indiana's opposition to energy independence. Allow citizens to find innovative ways to better our energy security and to build grid resiliency by embracing community solar (<http://iga.in.gov/documents/20a4c5b6>).

Many people who are unable to invest in rooftop solar systems want *somehow* to be proactive in a clean energy future. Examples include renters, people with houses in shaded areas, low income populations, people with HOA restrictions, community schools, and newcomers to renewable energy. Financially, people who now can only invest part-time, in shorter time frames, or with less capital are left on the sidelines when they desperately want to be a part of Indiana's betterment. Or as my dad would say, to be part of the solution.

The upsides to community solar are many and indisputable, yet the utilities continue to lobby to be the only ones who can monetize the sun or control energy independence.

Let Hoosiers benefit through a fair and transparent market structure to compete with the monopoly before the Indiana energy system is as fossilized as the carbon-based sources that are causing the woe.

We should be making the grid responsive to demand and distributed energy resources, with investments from individuals and companies, rather than meeting increased demand only with utility projects paid for by more rate hikes.

Please, consider the vision of a plumber working on a rooftop to lead our nation toward a sustainable future. Allow Hoosiers to do the right thing. Advocate for community solar.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bueter

Cc:

Sen. Scott Baldwin

Sen. Stacey Donato

Sen. Jean Leising

Sen. David Niezgodski

Sen. Linda Rogers

Sen. Shelli Yoder

Rep. Ryan Dvorak

Rep. Ryan Hatfield

Rep. Chris Jeter

Rep. Ethan Manning

Rep. Sharon Negele

Rep. Matt Pierce

William Fine

Dan Huge

Kay Pashos

Peter Schubert

Donna Walker

Attachment:

Fred Bueter, left, installing solar devices in 1981.