



AIA Indiana

April 13, 2017

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor of Indiana
200 W. Washington St., Rm. 206
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Holcomb:

As stewards of both our clients' best interests as well as those of the environment, we as architects are put in a challenging position with the potential enactment of SB 309. The rooftops of our buildings are a prime location for solar panels; making use of underutilized square footage while preserving land for both the natural habitat and farming that has long been a source of pride for our State.

As we continue our evolution towards a renewably powered, energy independent future, the Indiana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Indiana) recognizes a need for our State's utility metering practices to evolve along with it as part of a broader conversation about how best we use our State's natural resources. It is the opinion of AIA Indiana that SB 309 introduces an uncertainty into the life-cycle costs of a rooftop solar installation that is driven not by the free market, but by a review process insufficient in its transparency to the public. As much as we wish to advocate for the environment, this uncertainty makes it nearly impossible for architects practicing in Indiana to advocate to clients that a rooftop solar installation is in their best fiduciary interests for the foreseeable future.

AIA Indiana would support an advancement of our metering practices based upon a thorough and transparent analysis of the utility companies' costs to generate and distribute energy which fairly compensates both those who generate power as well as those who distribute it, while not shifting the costs of a shared public utility upon those who may lack the means for on-site generation. Such advancements might include a credit rate to the owners of on-site renewable equal to the local utility companies' costs to generate renewable power; which would introduce an element of free-market competition that would encourage both solar manufacturers and utility companies to lower costs for consumers. AIA Indiana does not feel SB 309 represents such advancements and we respectfully urge you to veto this bill and urge the Legislature to reconsider this matter. Thank you for your consideration and service to our State.

Sincerely,

Jason Shelley
Executive Director

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