

Our Families Deserve Clean, Local Energy

By Roberta Combs, President of the Christian Coalition

When it comes to our energy future, the status quo just doesn't work anymore. We can't continue to rely on limited, dirty energy, especially when we have cleaner and more stable resources right at our fingertips. Nowhere is this issue more front-and-center right now than in Indiana. The utilities – protectors of the status quo – are pushing a bill called HB 1320 that would stop solar energy growth in its tracks. If passed, HB 1320 would prevent families, churches, and local businesses from powering their communities with solar energy generated directly on their rooftops. The bill would perpetuate our reliance on fuels that pollute God's earth, and it would stall local job creation in the process.

The Christian Coalition supports clean, homegrown energy sources such as rooftop solar that deliver energy independence. We oppose utilities' efforts to keep us dependent only on limited fossil fuels, so we oppose HB 1320. To protect our families and deliver a clean, secure future for our children, we must keep the rooftop solar industry growing. Now is the time for Hoosiers to voice their solar support.

Indiana churches and their members have already started to speak out in support of solar. It's time for others to follow their lead. God has given us dominion over His earth, and we have a sacred duty to protect His creation. If we continue our overwhelming dependence on polluting energy sources, we are failing our obligation to Him. Many congregations in Indiana have taken that calling to heart and are powering their churches with God-given sunlight. The utility-backed bill, HB 1320, would prevent other Christians from following this example.

The bill also threatens local job creation. Our national economy continues to falter, and hardworking Americans continue to struggle to support their families. The Christian Coalition opposes any efforts to quench a growing industry that guarantees local, stable jobs. In 2014, one out of every 78 new jobs was created by the solar industry. Solar employment grew 20 times faster than the overall economy.

HB 1320 contradicts our duty of stewardship for the earth and those who dwell on it. The Christian Coalition opposes HB 1320, and we hope you'll join us in calling on your legislators to oppose the bill as well.