

# KEY BILLS I SUPPORTED DURING THE 2011 SESSION

## ✓ UNIFORM TRAVEL ALERT SYSTEM: To help warn Hoosier motorists of dangerous road conditions during severe weather, legislators supported a bill requiring Indiana's 92 counties to implement a uniform emergency alert system. Until now, counties developed and operated their own travel advisories, which led to confusion among Hoosiers and emergency personnel traveling across county lines.



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## ✓ RX-DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM: Lawmakers passed a measure creating a statewide drug take-back program allowing Hoosiers to safely dispose of unwanted prescription medications at participating pharmacies. This measure aims to keep drugs out of the hands of young people who often don't realize the consequences of abusing prescriptions.

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## ✓ PROTECTING OUR GREAT LAKES: A bipartisan panel of lawmakers will study Great Lakes issues in order to promote and help better protect Indiana's 45 miles of shoreline. Increasing political involvement could result in sound public policies that help preserve the economic, environmental and recreational benefits provided by these natural resources.

## ✓ DISTRACTED DRIVING: Legislators passed a measure to reduce distracted driving accidents by prohibiting motorists from typing, sending or reading text messages or emails on cell phones. Drivers can still use hands-free or voice-operated devices to send text or email messages.



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## ✓ VOTING CENTERS: Counties statewide can now choose to replace traditional precinct polling sites with more centralized voting locations. Tested in the 2008 election cycle, results showed centralized voting locations placed in high-traffic areas, like grocery stores, provide convenience and can help reduce expenses for contracting, staffing and equipping polling sites.



## ✓ CELLULAR "DO NOT CALL" LIST: Consumer protections will be strengthened by including cell numbers on Indiana's "Do Not Call" list. This new law will help prevent telemarketers from targeting cell users who may be charged for minutes, texts and picture messages. Nearly 200,000 Hoosiers have already requested their cell numbers be added to the registry.

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# STATE SENATOR SUE LANDSKE

SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 6

## SEN. SUE LANDSKE

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## STATE SENATOR SUE LANDSKE

Dear Friends,

Indiana's Constitution specifically charges the Indiana General Assembly with drawing new legislative and congressional districts after each national census, so representation is apportioned fairly.

Republican senators for years have advocated objective redistricting guidelines that would – whenever practical – preserve traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest; protect minority voting rights; create simply shaped, compact districts; and respect county, township and precinct lines. We stood by these principles during this session's important redistricting process.

Nine public field hearings were hosted across the state to seek input from local leaders, community groups and private citizens. Ours was the most open Indiana redistricting process in memory. In the end, the new legislative and

congressional maps were accepted with bipartisan Senate votes.

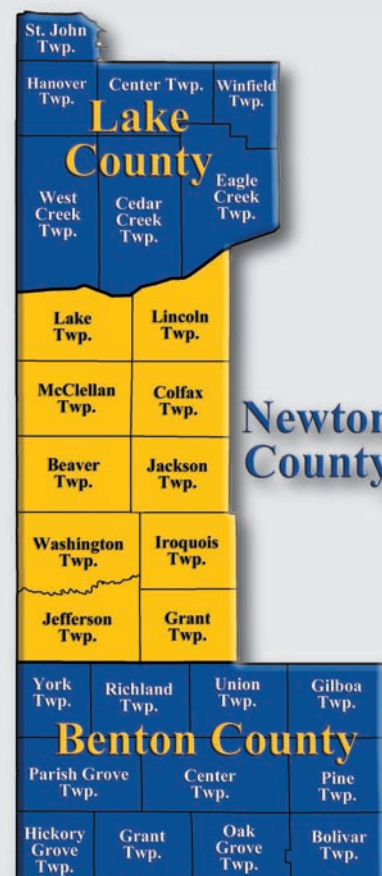
Shifting populations and applying fair guidelines resulted in many district boundaries changing – for the benefit of constituents, not politicians. For some of us lawmakers, it will mean reaching out to new neighborhoods and learning how to effectively represent the wants and needs of those areas at the Statehouse.

Whether you are a new acquaintance or a familiar friend, I want you to know I am just a phone call, mouse click or mailbox away.

Sincerely yours,

*Sue Landske*

Sue Landske  
State Senator



MAP OF NEW  
SENATE DISTRICT 6



# SEN. SUE LANDSKE

SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 6 TAXPAYERS



## 2011 Focus: Low-Tax, Pro-Job Policies

Senate Republicans were on the job the entire 2011 legislative session, preserving and building on Indiana's low-tax, pro-growth state policies.

While government doesn't effectively create jobs, government policies can encourage private-sector investment. Lawmakers this year remained committed to helping Indiana recover faster and better by keeping our state policies employer-friendly.

Passing a balanced budget, avoiding job-killing tax hikes and maintaining prudent reserves remained top priorities for Senate lawmakers. With the national recession reducing state revenues to 2005 levels, legislators insisted on tight spending limits, just as Hoosier families, farmers and employers do every day. We prioritized education and essential services, while protecting Indiana taxpayers.

Hoosiers have historically been generous in funding needs of K-12 education, but today demand the best education possible for those taxpayer funds. About \$150 million in additional, statewide school funding was approved, including monies for full-day kindergarten and rewards for outstanding teachers. Beyond controlling government spending and providing for a well-educated workforce, Senate Republicans offered several job-related proposals to positively impact Indiana's economy for generations to come:

**Attractive, Competitive Taxes:** A Senate-initiated

2010 bipartisan study concluded the state's relatively high corporate tax rate could be hurting efforts to keep and attract employers and jobs they provide Hoosiers.

mental updates of generating facilities, incentivizes clean energy and provides more affordable pay-as-you-go recovery of needed investments.



**"Buy Local":** Gov. Mitch Daniels implemented the "Buy Indiana" program in 2005 to help revive the state's economy by promoting state purchases from Hoosier companies. Senators introduced and passed a measure this year to help revitalize hometown economies by encouraging local governments to reinvest through area vendors. "Buy Local" helps Indiana employers compete with larger, often out-of-state companies.

**Young Entrepreneurs:** Small businesses create six in 10 new jobs – most resulting from new business start-ups. Clearly, small businesses are key to economic recovery. This year, GOP senators advocated a "Young Entrepreneurs Program"

to complement universities' business curricula by matching first-time employers with Indiana communities, so business plans can be better tailored and more Hoosiers can be put to work.

**Foreign Markets:** Senators pushed for a proposal ensuring Hoosier grain producers are at the forefront of foreign exports. Without it, Indiana had no certification process guaranteeing to world markets that our commercial feed manufacturers follow industry standards. Purdue University and Indiana Farm Bureau advised us on this proposal intended to help our rural economies and urban logistical hubs.

Indiana's current rate is among the highest nationwide, giving our state higher combined federal and state corporate taxes than Germany or Japan. An adopted Senate plan will reduce our state rate, making Indiana more attractive and fostering private-sector job growth.

**Ample, Affordable Energy:** Availability of lower-cost energy is of major concern to employers looking to expand and relocate. Forecasters estimate our state will require 30 percent more energy by 2025. In response, senators helped develop Indiana's first-ever comprehensive energy plan for safe, affordable, dependable power. Senate Enrolled Act 251 encourages environ-

### PROTECTING STUDENT ATHLETES FROM SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS

Nearly 135,000 adolescents nationwide experience dangerous, sometimes deadly sports-related concussions every year. To better protect Hoosiers, I authored a new law requiring high school student-athletes suspected of sustaining head injuries to be removed immediately from sporting events. Injured athletes would not return to play until evaluated and cleared by licensed health-care providers trained in assessing head injuries.

Hoosier coaches, student-athletes and their parents would also receive materials about the new guidelines established under this policy and risks of concussions. They would sign official forms acknowledging they received and understood the information.

High school athletes are more vulnerable to concussions than older athletes. They are also three times more likely to experience a second head injury if concussed once during the sporting season. This important law will hopefully lower these risks and better educate young Hoosiers, their families and coaches about the dangers of concussions and proper steps recommended to get student-athletes back to their active lives.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, at least 11 states have laws targeting youth sports-related head injuries.



### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER ED, TECHNICAL TRAINING

Hoosier students who study diligently to complete high school requirements one year early will be eligible for new \$4,000 state-funded scholarships to attend Indiana colleges or technical schools. Students would be required to be enrolled at approved postsecondary education institutions within five months of graduating early from high school to receive the scholarships.

Lawmakers worked to preserve 100 percent college-tuition reimbursement for currently enrolled sons and daughters of deceased and disabled Indiana veterans. To ensure funds are available in the future for deserving children of those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, lawmakers reformed a few eligibility requirements. One change includes a provision to confirm an applicant's mother or father was a resident of Indiana at the time of enlistment or had been a resident of Indiana for at least five years prior to applying for these scholarship benefits.

Despite tough economic times, Indiana legislators also fully funded the state's popular 21st Century Scholarship program. Under the plan, low-income 7th and 8th grade students who stay out of trouble with the law, remain drug-free and perform well academically through high school graduation will continue to be eligible for these full college-tuition scholarships.



### BANNING "SPICE" AND OTHER SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA PRODUCTS

Synthetic marijuana products – herbs sprayed with hallucinogenic chemicals – are now controlled substances across Indiana and carry the same penalties for producing, distributing or using marijuana.

I co-authored this new law to help prevent the use of these dangerous products that have not been medically or scientifically tested on humans. When smoked, "Spice" and other synthetic cannabinoids distort perceptions and impair coordination. The drugs are linked to an increase in hospitalizations, emergency room visits and calls to poison control centers. The American Association of Poison Control Centers reports that, in 2010, poison centers throughout the United States received 2,870 calls about synthetic marijuana products, up from 13 in 2009. In fact, more than 1,600 calls about these products to poison control centers nationwide were made in the first four months of this year. The Indiana Poison Control Center reported that as of June 10, 2010, Indiana had the largest number of "Spice" cases in the nation, with 66.

While local ordinances were passed by communities, they lacked enforcement across jurisdictions and were limited to lesser penalties and fines. Police and prosecutors asked lawmakers for a statewide ban, while federal DEA officials consider a nationwide prohibition. Now, Indiana will join more than 20 states to curb the availability of these products.

