

**March 16, 2011**

**Dear Senators and Representatives,**

I know each of us have very important, difficult, and unique roles to play as we work together as elected officials for the people of Indiana. However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are all charged with providing responsible governance and creating the environment for job growth to occur. For all quality of life issues rise and fall on the state of the economy and the economy reflects the state of governance.

As an example, a few years ago, you passed property tax relief in the form of caps which changed the fundamental funding mechanism for our cities and towns. As a result, I, and many of my contemporaries serving Indiana's great cities and towns had to figure out how to re-prioritize our needs and balance our budgets. It was the right thing to do and we took it on. We responsibly reflected the desires of our individual communities in that process.

Today, as the custodians of our state budget – you must do the same thing.

You have the opportunity to prioritize our state-wide needs without negatively impacting the economic success we have been experiencing while being responsible caretakers of our state's budget. I would urge you to run all legislation through that prism and focus the 2011 legislative session.

I suggest this because I see, to date, numerous proposals that are reactions to locally motivated decisions or conflicts that are simply off-track concepts that detract from the core responsibilities you have been tasked with as state legislators. These issues have taken too much time away in the General Assembly from what is most important: *passing a budget that will keep Indiana moving in the right direction for economic growth.*

At IACT, we believe the best way to inspire economic development is to empower communities.

- **Let the people who pay taxes** and benefit from the services provided **locally decide** how best to reorganize their local governments, and when – or when not to - consolidate services. **Anti-Economic Development Proposals: SB 69 Annexation, HB Fire Territories 1096**
- **Let the people who work** and serve in the communities **decide** what kind of economic development they need – be it a new nursing home or property investment.  
**Anti-Economic Development Proposals: SB 460 Nursing Home Moratorium, SB 550 Redevelopment Commissions**
- **Let the people who live in the communities** keep the local income taxes they pay in their local communities and **decide** how best to achieve public safety and prioritize their public safety dollars to keep their streets safe and their homes protected.  
**Anti-Public Safety Proposals: Amendment 21 in HB 1001 Budget Bill, HB 1170 Public Safety Spending Restrictions, HB 1543 Rental Property Inspections**
- **Let the people of each community** who vote **decide** whether they want to permit discharging a gun in their local parks, urban neighborhoods, or city buildings.  
**Anti-Public Safety Proposal: SB 292 Pre-Emption of Local Gun Ordinances**

These are not matters to be decided in Indianapolis, especially when so much more is at stake. These are matters that should be decided at home, among the Hoosiers who live and vote in these communities affected.

I realize as I write this letter that there are other matters at hand putting many legislative discussions and actions on hold. However, when it is time to move forward I ask that you please seriously consider our concerns. We need you now, more than ever, to put what might be personal interests aside. Take the opportunity before you to pass legislation and a balanced budget, that will continue to attract new jobs and provide the resources needed to keep our communities safe, our streets clean, our schools top-notch, and local matters a local decision.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Wayne Seybold, Mayor, Marion  
IACT President

BCC: IACT Membership