

NORTHERN INDIANA ADVOCATES
UNITING FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY



2022
Legislative
Agenda

Northern Indiana Advocates, December 2021
9 Counties – One Voice

Advocating for public policy that expands economic opportunity

MISSION

Northern Indiana Advocates (NIA) promotes an environment in Northern Indiana where individuals, businesses, and communities thrive in a global economy. We focus upon supporting bi-partisan Policy Priorities:

NIA POLICY PRIORITY PILLARS

<p>21st Century Talent Advance policies that improve education, expand employer access to qualified workforce, and promote lifelong learning</p>	<p>World-Class Infrastructure Encourage creatively financed, sustainable, and future-ready infrastructure connecting Northern Indiana to the world</p>	<p>Competitive Business Climate Support tax, environmental, employment and economic development policies that help our 9-county region thrive in a global economy</p>	<p>Rural Investment/Re-investment Encourage and support policies that help the rural communities of Northern Indiana be sustainable. Support agribusiness and technology that is rooted in rural Indiana.</p>
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2022 SESSION GOALS

- 1) Monitor and react to 2022 legislation impacting the northern Indiana region and Northern Indiana Advocates policy positions
- 2) Advocate and support for select bi-partisan legislation authored by member legislators
- 3) Build relationships and momentum with legislators and executive branch
- 4) Build on strategic partnership with the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana

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POLICY PRIORITY: WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

SUPPORT PROPOSALS TO FACILITATE THE EXPANSION OF LEGITIMATE HIGHSPEED BROADBAND INTO ALL AREAS OF THE REGION.

The COVID Virus exposed the risk that non-metropolitan areas experience due to the lack of connectivity. In most state geographic areas, despite the large IPOs warnings to the contrary, most rural residents can neither receive adequate nor comparable distance educations, telework possibilities, nor telehealth care with residents of metro areas. This poses a substantial threat to the stability of most rural or mixed rural-urban communities. The solution is to expedite state assistance to these areas to enable all state residents to have equal access to this essential 21st-century infrastructure. We support the efforts of REMCs, and other utility partners offering their facilities to bring legitimate high-speed internet and connectivity to every part of Northern Indiana.

POLICY PRIORITY: WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

CONTINUE SUPPORT WITH LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES FOR THE TRANSITION OF US 30 and US 31 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

Northern and Northeast Indiana are the most manufacturing intense region in the state of Indiana, which is among the top three manufacturing intensive states in the U.S. During the last legislative session, we helped secure budget commitments, promises, and a letter outlining the Governor’s intent to support US 30 improvement projects. To date, very little has been done, and we must advocate ensuring that the promises made are kept.

In addition, we have heard from our legislators that despite the great progress made on design and construction upgrades on the US 31 corridor there is a need to advocate for completion of the full freeway to realize greater safety and economic benefits. NIA will continue to monitor and advocate for resources for this corridor.

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POLICY PRIORITY: COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

SUPPORT THAT ANY TAX CUTS DO NOT REDUCE REVENUE TO LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT

Tax revenues are performing well ahead of forecasts, and potential tax cuts are being discussed in the 2022 session. NIA will not support any tax cuts that will in any way reduce revenue to local units of governments.

There is great debate as to whether this is the best time to contemplate a tax cut of any kind. We generally support the position that surplus tax collections should be either refunded to the taxpayers or expended for specific capital projects, which will enhance future economic growth and enhance the long-term stability of Indiana. Such capital projects could include rural broadband, U.S. Route 30/31, or other highway projects. Education is also a wise investment, whether targeted at early childhood education, k-12, or post-secondary.

POLICY PRIORITY: COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

SUPPORT RENEWAL OF INDIANA TOLL ROAD TRAVEL PROGRAMING CONTRACT

Professionally managed travel programing along the Indiana Toll Road is a vital to driving economic impact into Northern Indiana through visitor, business, and talent attraction. The Northern Indiana Tourism Development Commission (NITDC) has a 30-year track record of reaching this audience through travel servicing and image building programs.

A recent economic impact study on the toll road shows our region is already deriving \$43 million of annual economic impact from this audience.

NITDC's current 5-year contract with the Indiana Toll Concession Company is set to expire on December 31, 2022. During the tenure of this contract NITDC has invested over \$500,000 to build out, promote, service and manage the travel service and image building programs at these travel plazas. NITDC's programs promote over 300 small and large businesses to the millions of travelers enter these travel plazas each year. NITDC is governed by business and municipal leaders across the 9-county northern Indiana region.

NITDC seeks legislative and/or governmental support for NITDC to be awarded a new 5-year contract starting on January 1, 2023. NITDC also seeks annual funding support annually to support continuation and expansion of this effort. It is vital that this contract continues under NITDC's northern Indiana based expert guidance to build on investments already made and assure our region's businesses interests continue to benefit from our proven \$43 million in annual economic impact from the travelers of the state-owned Indiana Toll Road asset.

OUR LEGISLATORS

Indiana Senate

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Party</u>
Frank	Mrvan	1	Hammond	D
Lonnie	Randolph	2	East Chicago	D
Eddie	Melton	3	Gary	D
Rodney	Pol	4	Chesterton	D
Ed	Charbonneau	5	Valparaiso	R
Rick	Niemeyer	6	Lowell	R
Mike	Bohacek	8	Michiana Shores	R
Ryan	Mishler	9	Bremen	R
David	Niezgodski	10	South Bend	D
Linda	Rogers	11	Granger Elkhart	R
Blake	Doriot	12	LaGrange	R
Sue	Glick	13	Logansport	R
Stacey	Donato	18	Walton	R

Indiana House of Representatives

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Party</u>
Carolyn	Jackson	1	Hammond	D
Earl	Harris, Jr.	2	East Chicago	D
Ragen	Hatcher	3	Gary	D
Ed	Soliday	4	Valparaiso	R
Dale	Devon	5	Granger	R
Maureen	Bauer	6	South Bend	D
Jake	Teshka	7	South Bend	R
Ryan	Dvorak	8	South Bend	D
Pat	Boy	9	Michigan City	D
Chuck	Moseley	10	Portage	D
Mike	Aylesworth	11	Hebron	R
Mike	Andrade	12	Munster	D
Vernon	Smith	14	Gary	D
Hal	Slager	15	Schererville	R
Jack	Jordan	17	Bremen	R
Craig	Snow	18	Warsaw	R
Julie	Olthoff	19	Crown Point	R
Jim	Pressel	20	Rolling Prairie	R
Tim	Wesco	21	Osceola	R
Curt	Nisly	22	Elkhart	R
Doug	Miller	48	Elkhart	R
Joanna	King	49	Middlebury	R
Dennis (Denny)	Zent	51	Angola	R
David (Dave)	Abbott	82	Rome City	R
