



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®
OF INDIANA**

Senator Charbonneau,

The League of Women Voters of Indiana strongly opposes HB 1082, a bill that "prohibits the environmental rules board from adopting a rule or standard that is more stringent than the corresponding regulation or standard established under federal law."

The League of Women Voters has long supported the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of our environment and, therefore, supports maximum protection the environment, which often corresponds to protecting public health.

HB 1082 profoundly limits Indiana's ability to protect its unique natural assets and to protect the health of its citizens. Moreover, recent history demonstrates the need for states to maintain the ability to act independently from the EPA.

For example, Ohio recently had to adopt rules beyond EPA regulations to protect Lake Erie from toxic algae blooms. Indiana and West Virginia have within the last three years adopted rules regulating above-ground chemical storage tanks after the Charleston, West Virginia's water system was polluted by a leak in such a tank. These rules clearly demonstrate the importance of states having the freedom to act independent of EPA regulations.

The League of Women Voters urges The Senate Environmental Affairs Committee reject HB 1082 and keep Indiana's freedom to act when necessary to protect our public health and environment independent of the federal EPA.

Sincerely,

Erin Kelley & Lisa Plencner
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Indiana

CC: Senators Eckerty, Bassler, Boots, Brown, Niemeyer, Schneider, Stoops, Broden, Tallian