

**3 Bills LWVIN Opposes** - These bills passed out of their chamber of origin and have been assigned to the second chamber committee as noted, with a full chamber vote likely.

**Ask your State Senator to oppose:**

> **HB 1623 Administrative rulemaking.** In the House “no more stringent” language was added to this bill to prevent IDEM from using coal ash disposal rules that are stricter than the EPA rules, which have some harmful gaps and weaknesses. ***If they serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee, ask that the bill not be heard.***

> **HB 1647 Residential onsite sewage systems.** This bill would allow property owners to override their local health department’s decision on whether to approve a septic system if the property owner gets a private consultant’s OK; and could cause more pollution from septic systems. ***If they serve on the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee, ask that the bill not be heard.***

**Ask your State Representative to oppose:**

> **SB 242 Protect our floodplains.** Despite its name, this bill would be harmful to floodplain management. It requires the Indiana DNR to use FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) maps, which are incomplete and would increase the risk that more buildings are built in flood-prone areas. State DNR maps are more inclusive and better for all the reasons that wetlands are valued. The bill passed the Senate and has been assigned to the House Natural Resources Committee. ***If they serve on the House Natural Resources Committee, ask that the bill not be heard.***

## **Conservation Funding Support**

The budget has passed the House with encouraging increases for conservation. However, the House version included just \$15 million instead of the Governor’s request of \$25 million for the President Benjamin Harrison Conservation Trust for land acquisition of vital natural habitat.

***If your State Senator is on the Senate Appropriations Committee, ask them to support the Governor’s recommended conservation funding in the state budget.***

## **6 Bills LWVIN Supports**

**Ask your State Senator to vote “yes”** on these two bills that passed unanimously out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, have been referred to a second committee, and are likely to come up soon for a full Senate vote:

> **HB 1639 Watershed Development Commissions** will improve management of both quantity and quality of our water supply by facilitating creation of entities based on watershed boundaries that can transcend political jurisdictions. A Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, 3/21.

> **HB 1304 Watercraft registration renewal fees** increases fees to support the Lakes and Rivers Enhancement Fund and is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The following four bills are in committee, but not yet scheduled for a hearing: • HB 1138 Pre-school and childcare facility drinking water testing • HB 1219 PFAS biomonitoring pilot program for firefighters • SB 33 Solar panel and wind power equipment disposal study • SB 221 Energy audit of state government campus.

*Your LWVIN Natural Resources Co-chairs,  
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