

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-03
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF LAPORTE COUNTY

WHEREAS, customer electric bills for Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) continue to increase (see attached customer bill chart from Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission) and the electric utility's customer bills remain among the highest in the State of Indiana, and

WHEREAS, reasonable energy costs are a key site determinant for manufacturing industries looking to locate new facilities, and

WHEREAS, industrial and commercial customers in LaPorte County seeking to survive a difficult recession are hard-pressed already to pay high energy costs, and

WHEREAS, already hard pressed residential customers can ill afford constantly increasing electric bills, and

WHEREAS, county government has taken an active role in prior proceedings involving NIPSCO rates and service, and

WHEREAS, NIPSCO's executives have thrown their support (see attached article from *Times of Northwest Indiana*, 2/20/13) behind a piece of legislation - S.B. 560 - that would make it easier for investor-owned utilities like NIPSCO to add to customer bills with "tracker" costs before having to secure approval from regulators in a full scale rate case, and

WHEREAS, in addition to allowing utilities to simply add trackers without having to justify such added charges in a rate case, the legislation gives utilities a windfall in the event regulators take more than 300 days to decide highly complex rate cases. Indeed, utilities would automatically be awarded 75% of the requested rate relief if regulators did not decide issues in a given rate case within such 300 day period.

WHEREAS, recent media reports indicate that NIPSCO's parent company, NiSource remains highly profitable, largely on the strength of captive electric ratepayers (see attached article from *Times of Northwest Indiana*, 2/20/13) and the utility's shareholders do not need or require the windfall that S.B. 560 would provide,


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAPORTE COUNTY THAT:

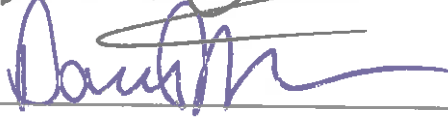
1. We the undersigned are opposed to passage of Senate Bill 560. We intend to communicate our opposition to all legislators in this region and encourage our constituents to call or write legislators as well to express opposition.


2. We urge the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to examine ways in which rate relief can be provided to customers of NIPSCO and that shareholders must begin to bear more of the cost burden, rather than the long-suffering commercial, industrial and residential ratepayers in NIPSCO's electric service territory.

All of which is approved this 20th day of February, 2013

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF LAPORTE COUNTY, INDIANA







Attest:

