

A stylized illustration of a blue house with a brown roof. The roof is covered with orange solar panels. The house has a central door and two windows on the ground floor, and a dormer window on the roof. To the left of the house is a white garage with horizontal lines. To the right is a utility pole with power lines. The background features a bright yellow sun with rays, a white cloud, and a green lawn.

HOAs and Solar Power in Indiana

Presented by:

Joey Myles

Volunteer, Solar United Neighbors

The Issue

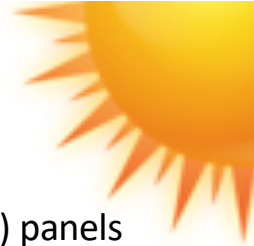
Most HOAs either:

- Absolutely prohibit solar panels, or
- Otherwise unreasonably restrict the placement (i.e. no street-facing, etc).

Why?

- Aesthetic perception (“solar panels are ugly”)
- Desire to maintain uniformity and consistency among all homes
- Solar shingles look “cleaner” (despite the cost, durability, and availability)
- Not enough education on the issue; fear of the unknown; allowing this will lead to that, etc.

Many HOA covenants still refer to “solar heat panels,” an obsolete technology from the 1980s



Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels



Solar heat panels



3 Solutions

1. Change covenants by gathering neighborhood support

- Very cumbersome, costly, and does not always work (Joey's story)

2. Alternative technologies (SolarSkin)

- HOAs seem very receptive to this as a compromise between going green and aesthetic appeal

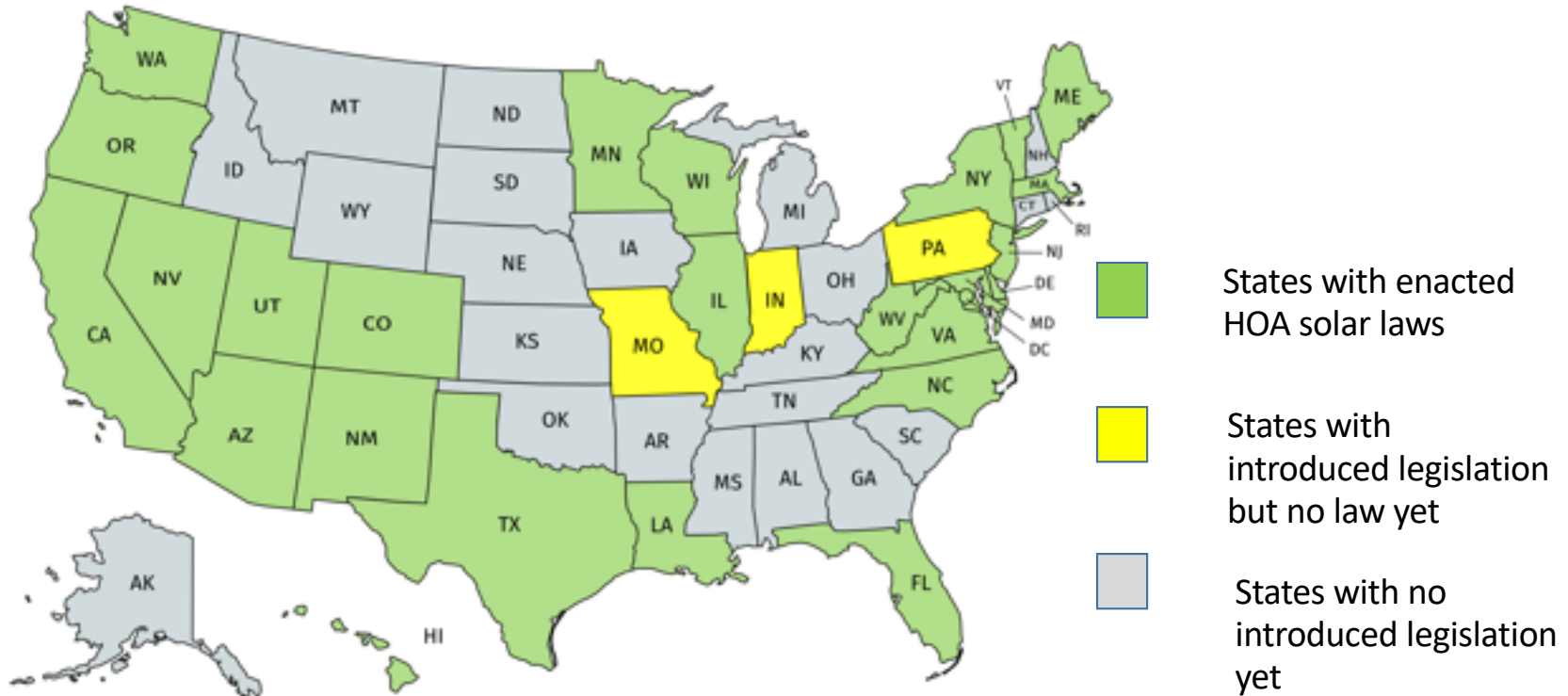
3. Pursue a change in state law



The Legislative Solution



We need to join the 25 other states, plus the District of Columbia, and PASS A STATE LAW!!!!



Additionally, an effort to fix this at the federal level was made in 2009 (House Resolution 2454, section 209) but the legislation did not receive a vote.



Why This Legislation is Important for Indiana



1. Energy freedom and choice; less reliance on the grid
2. The ability to take personal responsibility for one's own energy future
3. Economically:
 - a. Purchasing a solar energy system allows you to hedge future increases in electric utility costs
 - b. Filing the solar panel property tax exemption prevents your solar panels from increasing your assessed value
4. Provides a check and balance on power of HOAs



Legislative History

- 2017 Senate Bill 500: Passed Senate 31-17 but did not receive hearing in House Judiciary Committee
- 2018 Senate Bill 207: Passed Senate 36-12 but did not receive hearing in House Judiciary Committee
- 2019 House Bill 1331: Different versions passed the House and Senate and the bill died in Conference Committee
- 2020 – back at it again!!!



Sen. Aaron Freeman
(R-Indianapolis)
(Joey's State Senator)



Rep. Mike Speedy
(R-Indianapolis)
(Joey's State Representative)

**YOU CAN MAKE AN
IMPACT!**



Contact Information



Joey Myles, Indiana Solar Homeowner

jackbauer3487@yahoo.com

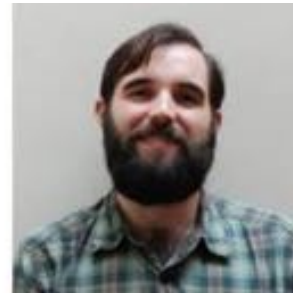
(317) 341-5021



Laura Arnold, President
Indiana Distributed Energy Alliance (IndianaDG)

laura.arnold@indianadg.net

(317) 635-1701



Zach Schalk, Program Director
Solar United Neighbors of Indiana

zach@solarunitedneighbors.org



IndianaDG

Working to promote renewable energy and distributed generation

 **SOLAR UNITED
NEIGHBORS
of Indiana**





Any questions (under the sun)?

