



To Members of the Indiana General Assembly:

Leadership over the years from Indiana's elected leaders has moved the state to the top of many coveted lists:

- 2nd in lowest property tax burden;
- In the top 5 states for business;
- Indiana leads the nation in manufacturing jobs; and,
- 10th best tax climate in the U.S., among other rankings.

These rankings position Indiana to compete favorably for new investment by attracting new companies to the state and encouraging those already here to expand.

It is Indiana's placement on another list that is jeopardizing much of the progress we have made in the last few years: our continued placement on the list as one of the last five states to fail to implement a meaningful hate crimes bill.

New and renewed business investment is critically dependent upon a state's ability to attract and retain a talented and trained workforce. Skilled workers are a mobile asset: they can and do locate in places where they feel welcome and where they feel as though their talents can be best utilized.

Indiana's lack of meaningful hate crimes legislation keeps the state on a list that is a contradiction to our treasured sense of 'Hoosier Hospitality' and that burdens businesses and economic developers with an inability to attract what has become the most critical business asset in the 21st Century – a skilled workforce.

We congratulate Governor Holcomb for his leadership on this issue and urge Members of the Indiana General Assembly to follow his lead and enact a fully realized hate crimes bill that restores the enumerated classes to the bill.

It is time to remove Indiana from short list of states that does not have meaningful hate crimes legislation and to keep the state firmly on the lists that demonstrate our continued leadership in critical areas important for business growth and attraction.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Indiana Economic Development Association,

Lee Lewellen
President/CEO
Indiana Economic Development Association