ATTACKS ON STATE CLEAN ENERGY LAWS, 2013

Rebecca Stanfield, June 5, 2013
Renewable Energy Legislation Under Consideration by State Legislatures This Spring (map courtesy of Pierre Bull)
The Good News

“Renewable energy lobbyists are undefeated this year in defending the state-level purchasing mandates that have helped fuel explosive growth in industries like wind and solar, and that streak looks set to remain intact as part-time state legislatures around the country are wrapping up their work for the year.”

– E&E News, June 3
More Good News

"We had chambers of commerce from across the state ... all saying the same thing, which is wind has been a very positive economic development story across our state," said Kimberly Svaty, who helped lead the defense of Kansas' RPS for the Wind Coalition, an industry-backed group focused on policies in the states in the Southwest Power Pool and Texas.
And More Good News

- MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich. (AP) — Gov. Rick Snyder says he favors boosting the portion of electricity in Michigan that’s generated from renewable sources but hasn’t decided how much the increase should be.

- DES MOINES — MidAmerican Energy Co. plans to add 656 wind turbines that will generate up to 1,050 megawatts of power in Iowa by the end of 2015 — a $1.9 billion project that Gov. Terry Branstad said represents the largest economic development investment in state history.
Bad News – we’re not done

"I expect that North Carolina and Kansas will probably pick up this issue again in 2014 and lead the charge across the country once again," said Todd Wynn, who directs a task force on energy, environmental and agriculture issues for the American Legislative Exchange Council. – E&E News, June 3
What Worked?

- JOBS, JOBS, JOBS
- THE POLICIES ARE ACTUALLY WORKING, CREATING VALUE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND A MOBILIZED INDUSTRY
- WORKING WITH UTILITIES WHO WERE NEUTRAL OR ON OUR SIDE
- REFUTING THE OTHER SIDE’S ASTRONOMICALLY WRONG COST NUMBERS
What about efficiency?
Attacks on EERS standards in 2013?

- Lower profile;
- Different political drivers (FOR NOW);
- Every session in most states there are attempts to weaken or repeal
  - Michigan – full repeal proposed but didn’t move
  - Illinois – Industrial push for exemption
Components of effective defense -

Different players, different arguments, different context, but we can learn from the RES fights:

- Demonstrate the job creation;
- Get the industry in the game (YOU GUYS!);
- Mobilize those who have benefitted;
- Show the cost-effectiveness/refute the numbers.