



THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE



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Honorable Peter Visclosky
United States House of Representatives
701 E. 83rd Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

Dear Congressman Visclosky:

Efficiency and effectiveness is the key to good business in both the private and public sector. The Good Government Initiative is underway and everyone is anxiously awaiting those recommendations on efficiency which will translate into effective service delivery resulting in reduced costs. In the public sector the result of reduced costs is a lowering of the ad velorum property tax rate. While incremental reductions in a single taxing unit may not produce substantial property tax reductions, the sum of many such reductions can produce an objective and visible effect.

The private sector on its own is consistently faced with competition and the battle between cost and selling price. However, competitive forces do not impact directly regulated utilities. For that reason, a system of controls through state sponsored regulation have been implemented for various regulated utilities. However, this system is sometimes cumbersome and fails to bring about the big "bite".

For the above reasons NIPSCO as a regulated utility needs to take part in the Good Government Initiative. NIPSCO is not a governmental unit but is certainly not a free market for profit undertaking. NIPSCO has been given a franchise and license and should be accountable. One way to bring about accountability is for the utility to take part in the Good Government Initiative as a quasi government regulated industry.