

The Cope...



INCMA's Monthly Fax Newsletter

April 2007

**INCMA BILL SIGNED
BY GOVERNOR!**

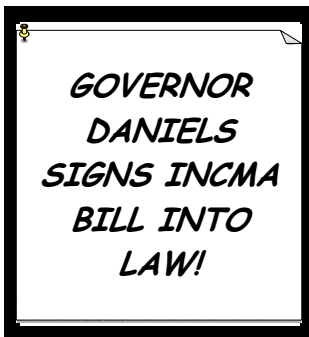
INCMA's effort to encourage the use of public works projects was signed into law on Friday March 30 by Governor Daniels. Special thanks to SB 96 author Sen. Bob Meeks (R-LaGrange) and House sponsor David Niezgodski (D-S. Bend) as well as cosponsors along the way Sen. Heinold, Reps. Wolkins and Koch. There are still a few weeks to go before the legislature has to adjourn by April 29 and many bills still pending are important to the business community. Log onto INCMA.org to review the bills being tracked by INCMA this Session.

OTHER "LIVE" ISSUES

The last day for third readings was earlier this week leaving only conference committees to resolve any differences on bills that have passed one or both houses. This is the time where decisions are made with fewer voices and less public exposure and when ideas that should have been dead get revived. A few issues of interest include: **SB 206** authored by Sen. Gard addresses several issues favorable

to utilities including additional "trackers" which allow the utilities to recover certain costs with minimal review.

HB 1478 passed the Senate and includes property tax reform authored by Sen. Kenley. It's the only bill alive dealing with the issue, but will be tough and complicated as it reflects the most significant property tax reform since 1973 and



will likely be decided in the final Session days.

While it appears no workers comp bills will pass this year, **HB 1092** may still pass which requires employers to provide 10 days of vacation leave or other alternatives provided by an employer for family members of soldiers deployed on active duty.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
FEES FAIL**

SB 432 which included across the Board environmental fee

increases of \$5 million failed to pass the House Ways and Means Committee last week. While IDEM asserted the average increase was 24 percent, many fees were going up by much more and some as much as 300 percent. The IMA and Chamber opposed the bill in committee for the first time due to a lack of justification that had been requested from IDEM for the past 3 months. The Governor's office has been invisible on this issue so its not clear whether there will be an effort to revive the bill this session since it did pass the Senate.

**INCMA MEMBERS
LOBBY DC**

The annual AFS Fly-In to DC was held recently with 5 INCMA member foundries participating. Members met with Congressmen Baron Hill, Joe Donnelly and key staffers from the offices of Cong. Burton, Sen. Lugar and Sen. Bayh. Members secured commitments from several offices to support the latest trade bill that appears on track to succeed and would result in

allowing the US to file suit against China for illegal subsidies associated with its currency manipulation. Several Congressional offices also agreed to send letters to the Dept. of Energy to free up \$5M in funding already dedicated but not allocated for foundry energy efficiency research. Members also expressed concerns regarding the Employee Free Choice Act recently passed by the House which guts nearly 70 years of labor law to make it easier for unions to form but were assured by most that the bill will not move further at this time. Conference attendees were also treated to a reception and speech by George Will.

Please note the attached two pages from friends of INCMA who sponsored our legislative conference last month.

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