

The Cope...



INCMA's Monthly Fax Newsletter

March 2008

2008 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

The legislature adjourned for the year on Friday as required by law. Agreement was reached on several matters but many issues died waiting for final consideration. A summary of key bills and where they finished is below.

HB 1001: Property Tax Reform, PASSED Rep. Crawford (D) / Sen. Kenley (R). The primary focus of this Session, this bill passed both houses easily and in the end reflected several items of interest to foundries in it's 800 pages including:

1) a 1 cent sales tax increase effective 4/1/08;
2) a 3.5% cap on business property taxes in 2009 and a 3% permanent cap in 2010. A separate resolution also passed to place these caps in to the state Constitution pending passage again next year and a state wide vote after that.

3) elimination of many but not all township assessors in the state. While there is much more in the bill, the IMA at www.imaweb.org has pledged to produce a county by county fiscal analysis early this week to provide further local impact details.

HB 1090: Climate Registry, DEAD Rep. Dvorak (D) Would have required Indiana to become of a member of the climate registry for greenhouse gas emissions.

SB 182 OSHA Penalties DEAD. Sen. Alting (R) Would have increased penalties for "knowing" violations.



SB 224/HB 1117 Various Utility Matters, DEAD. Sen. Hershman / Rep. Stilwell (D) Most utility issues ended up in HB 1117 including multiple tracker provisions which would have allowed automatic fee increases. Labor opposition was a factor in it's demise.

SB 345: Immigration DEAD. Sen. Delph (R) This bill died in spite of the author's last minute attempts to find a compromise. In the end, several legislators recognized the shortcomings of the bill which could have closed businesses with 3 violations. Expect

another effort in 2009. A complete INCMA tracking report covering bills that passed this Session is online at INCMA.org.

AFS WASHINGTON MEETING UPDATE

Several Indiana foundries have already registered for the 2008 AFS Conference in Washington DC on April 9-11. Drastically reduced registration fees, new hotel facilities, and expanded agendas appear to be attracting a much larger crowd this year. Specific issues to be addressed include: Trade/Currency Manipulation, Tax policies, Expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act, Green House Gas Emissions and more. For more information log on to www.AFSinc.org.

INDOT FOUNDRY SAND USE UPDATE

Representatives from INCMA met with INDOT officials late last month to once again discuss the value of the microtox test currently required by INDOT for foundry sand used in their projects. IDEM does not require the test nor do any other states.

INDOT officials agreed that the microtox test was not as reliable or as useful today given knowledge gained over the past several years. However, INDOT is proposing a new analysis to assess whether another toxicity test is appropriate for foundry sand use in INDOT projects. A decision should be made by June on how they will proceed. INDOT officials also offered support for incorporating more foundry sand education into their programs for local officials which should help to generate new opportunities for local reuse.

WELCOME DUKE ENERGY

Welcome to INCMA's newest associate member - Duke Energy. Log onto the INCMA Member's page for more information on this and other INCMA members.

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Our Mission is to supply insurance-related projects and services that provide outstanding value to our commercial and personal customers. **We are committed** to treating all of our customers even better than they expect to be treated, and we will strive to be regarded by our customers as the best agency in our industry. Today's structure is a result of the acquisition in January 1993 by Philip R. Peterson and Daniel T. Touw. Mr. Peterson serves as Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Touw as President. Since 1993, we have grown in volume to \$40,000,000. In 1999 Donald Arbogast was named as Vice President. We continue to occupy our building located at 727 East 86th Street, our location since 1971; however, due to growth, Safety Management Group in 1998 moved to its current location at 1435 Chase Court in Carmel. Our traditional marketplace is the State of Indiana. However, as our clients have grown and

expanded, we have as well, maintaining licenses that permit Pillar Group to do business in nearly every state. As the new millennium approached, we sought a new name to better reflect the services we have striven to provide our clients, and will continue to extend to our clients in the future. After much thought and discussion, we selected the name Pillar Group Risk Management.

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Engineering - Consulting - Remediation - Keramida Environmental Inc. has been providing a full range of environmental services since 1988 to industry, businesses, and government through its staff of environmental engineers, scientists, hydro-geologists, toxicologists and industrial hygienists. Staff with years of experience in the various regulatory programs enhances the company's technical expertise. In today's climate of complex environmental requirements and stiff liabilities and penalties it is especially important for a consulting firm to combine technical knowledge with regulatory expertise. Keramida enjoys an enviable reputation for quality, innovation and service and believes their success is plainly the high quality of their staff. Keramida has established a strong working relationship with the Foundry sector and looks forward to continuing to build successful partnerships on old and new relationships.

Plews Shadley Racher & Braun, Indianapolis, 317-637-0700/ www.psrb.com

With 34 attorneys in Indianapolis and South Bend practicing environmental law, we have the largest environmental practice in Indiana and one of the biggest in the Midwest. Founded in 1988, our lawyers have handled administrative, state and federal trials and appeals covering a broad spectrum of environmental cases including environmental insurance cost recovery, the prosecution and defense of claims involving solid and hazardous materials, clean air and water acts, underground storage tanks, Brownfields remediation and redevelopment, toxic torts, environmental property damage or cost recovery claims and government enforcement actions of all kinds. Our lawyers assist clients in navigating the complex and ever-changing world of local, state and federal environmental rules and permit requirements. We advise clients on environmental issues in real estate and business transactions, in conducting environmental due diligence and audits, in participating in voluntary cleanup programs, in developing programs for limiting exposure to environmental claims, and in drafting and monitoring legislation and administrative rules. Our firm has actively participated in numerous Superfund cases and has organized committees to represent various interest groups in such efforts. We have a substantial practice in coal and natural resource law, including both permitting and administrative actions. Our firm is widely known for its environmental work, but it also has substantial experience in other areas of civil law, including complex litigation and appeals, real estate and business transactions, creation of new legal entities and business ventures, class actions and product liability.

