

Biography: Indiana State Senator Beverly Gard

A member of the Indiana State Senate for twenty-three years, Sen. Beverly Gard of Greenfield, Indiana, has made the health of Hoosiers and the state's energy and environmental policies her top priorities, while serving residents with both effectiveness and distinction.

Sen. Gard earned her bachelor's of science degree in chemistry from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and did graduate work in biochemistry. Previously, she worked as a biochemist for Eli Lilly and Company.

Today, Sen. Gard is the long-time chairman of the Indiana Senate's Energy and Environmental Affairs Committee. She also serves on the Senate Health Committee and the Senate Utility and Technology Committee.

Sen. Gard has championed legislation to incentivize the use of clean coal technologies in Indiana's coal-fired generating facilities. Just this year, she authored Senate Bill 251, which was signed into law by Gov. Mitch Daniels and will direct Indiana's energy policy throughout the next decade.

In 2008, Sen. Gard helped make Indiana the first state in the Great Lakes region to pass a seven-state agreement stipulating who can use the water from these treasured resources and how much.

Recently, Sen. Gard was also responsible for new laws targeting air quality in public schools, calling attention to the dangers lead-based paint may pose to children living in pre-1950 homes and creating an electronic waste program to reduce the number of unwanted electronic devices going into landfills.

Among many, some of Sen. Gard's other significant achievements include:

- Authoring legislation to protect Indiana wetlands and waterways;
- Authoring legislation to clean combined sewer overflows and brownfields; and
- Authoring legislation to promote risk-based cleanups.

But Sen. Gard's expertise isn't just sought throughout the state of Indiana — she's utilized as a national leader as well.

Currently, Sen. Gard serves as the Republican Co-chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Environment Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Energy Committee of the Council of State Governments Midwest and the Policy Consensus Initiative Board of Directors.

During her years of state and national service, Sen. Gard was also a member of the Midwestern High Level Radioactive Transportation Task Force, and she chaired the NCSL Agriculture, Energy and Environment Committee.

In addition, Sen. Gard testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on the issue of federal multi-pollutant legislation and continues to present at numerous conferences on energy issues from the perspective of Indiana and the Midwest. She recently testified before the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future on behalf of Midwestern legislators.

Most recently, Sen. Gard announced she will not seek re-election to the Indiana Senate in 2012, ending her 37 continuous years of public service. She plans to spend more time with her husband, Don, two sons, daughter-in-law and two granddaughters.