

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOTO: *Local officials gathered to meet with legislators on the community's behalf during the American Public Power Association's 2024 Legislative Rally from Feb. 26-28 in Washington, D.C.*

Local leaders go to Washington D.C. to talk public power

Council President Jim Brooks, Alderperson Abbey Barnes, Municipal Services Director Scott Kriebs, and City Administrator Jason Sergeant advocated on behalf of the City of Evansville's residents and rate payers on supply chain issues, permitting reforms and energy infrastructure.

Council President Jim Brooks, Alderperson Abbey Barnes, Municipal Services Director Scott Kriebs, and City Administrator Jason Sergeant advocated on behalf of Evansville Water & Light and its customers at the American Public Power Association's 2024 Legislative Rally Feb. 26 – 28. The annual event was held in Washington D.C. Evansville's attendees met personally with Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, Senator Ron Johnson, and with Representative Mark Pocan's office.

"Meeting directly with lawmakers and sharing Evansville's challenges provided a great opportunity to discuss how policies impact our City," said Jason Sergeant. "discussing topics that matter, like maintaining a safe, reliable and affordable power supply, was beneficial for both us and our legislators."

Council President Jim Brooks spoke during the meetings about the importance of ensuring utilities receive the help they need during a supply chain crisis and that more onerous policies are not passed to worsen the problem. They also discussed the need for streamlined federal permitting and siting rules to bolster infrastructure and maintain electric reliability, reducing the cost of investments in that infrastructure, a more secure energy grid, and providing responsible and reliable energy through a mix of sources — including natural gas.

"By meeting with our legislators, we can help ensure national policymakers keep public power customers in mind when they're making proposals," said Joseph Owen, director of government affairs for WPPI Energy. "Their choices have consequences in our local communities, so it is important to present our view. We are fortunate to have a congressional delegation that hears the issues from communities with locally owned, not-for-profit utilities and works to help however they can."

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Member-owned, not-for-profit WPPI Energy serves Evansville Water & Light and 50 other locally owned electric utilities. Together, WPPI members have built a diverse, competitive and responsible power supply. They share modern technologies and forward-thinking services, and they speak with a unified voice for effective energy policy advocacy.

