

Chairman Landis, Vice Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have travelled all the way from Medina to share the concerns of my community with regards to House Bill 393. I come to this issue from the perspective of not only a clergy person and a retired Army officer, but also that of an environmental illness survivor. I have a broken immune system due to environmental exposures to water-damaged buildings, chemicals and other toxins. I know personally what it is like to flee places where you cannot breathe due to toxic environments. I carry an arsenal of face masks, a bronchodilator, and Epi-pens to protect me on a daily basis from ordinary chemicals. I speak for millions of people whose lives have been destroyed by environmental illnesses, due to the uncontrolled testing and release of chemicals into our environment.

House Bill 393 would legalize the release of very dangerous chemicals and radioactive materials onto our roadways. There is no way to prevent these toxins from contaminating our sewers, streams, Lake Erie and ultimately our drinking water. There is no way to prevent them from contaminating our air, as they will make their way into the dust and the wind, transporting them into our lungs, yards, homes, and fields.

I have attached a chart from the FracFocus Chemical Disclosure Registry sponsored by the oil and gas industry (<http://fracfocus.org/chemical-use/what-chemicals-are-used>) that reflects the most commonly used chemicals in hydraulic fracturing. The exact use of additives varies, based on the geologic characteristics of each well. Glancing at this chart, you will notice that acids, biocides, ethylene glycol, corrosion inhibitors, gelling agents, iron stabilizing agents, and other additives that are part of this toxic cocktail. Fracking companies also have their own trade blends, which do not have to be reported. Additionally, hydraulic fracking brings up radioactive materials from deep in the earth. Due to the preponderance of thousands of chemicals used in fracking, scientists have no idea about the interactive effects of all these toxins either.

What bothers me the most though, is that the people of my community have been denied three times the right to legislate directly to prohibit this harm in our community. We were denied our right to vote on a county charter that included protections of our right to clean air, water and the right to self-govern. It all makes me question as a resident of Ohio, if this is really a democracy.

The adverse impacts of fracking chemicals on our health and environment are well-documented in peer-reviewed studies, books, and the testimonials of millions whose lives have been ruined. In 2015 more than 685 articles related to this had been published in peer-reviewed literature. Twenty six studies indicated public health hazards, forty indicated evidence of water contamination, and forty indicated elevated air pollution. We could expect these same effects as the concentrations of fracking waste would build up around our roadways, spreading into our neighborhoods.

It is morally wrong to ignore the devastating costs to health and environment of depositing fracking waste on our roadways, in favor of corporate profits. Fundamentally, this bill violates our human rights to live in healthy homes and to decide if we even want this "Agent Orange" spread in our communities. For all of the above reasons, I encourage you to examine your consciences and not recommend it for passage.

Rev. Dr. Sharon L. Kiesel

Environmental illness survivor and advocate