

Testimony AGAINST H.B. 393

Chairman Landis, Vice-Chairman Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien and Members of the House and Energy Committee:

I oppose House Bill 393, the proposal to legalize the use of so-called "brine" from oil and gas extractions a de-icer and dust control chemical on Ohio's public roads and highways.

This brine is oil and gas industry waste with contains dozens of toxic chemicals including radioactive wastes. The effects of rains, stormy weather and winds will move these poisons not just onto surface waters but also into homes when windows are open and dust blows in.

Science has already made it clear that so-called "brine", which as you may well know, is toxic liquid industrial radioactive waste which threatens health by high levels of radium and radio isotopes that emit radiation which embeds into bones and then causes cancer and cell damage. There is radium in each of the thousands of barrels of so-called "brine" tapped from every conventional oil and gas well and also for industrialized hydraulically-fractured oil and gas wells.

Passage of this bill will legalize widespread contamination and poisoning of land and water and with them people including your relatives ... the environment which we all live in.

The proposed Ohio Revised Code Section 1509.22(C)(9) contains wording which forbids the ODNR from developing any uniform rules to identify or set any limits on what industry toxic chemical could be sprayed onto the roadways and become part of our water table.

Spraying this toxic radioactive "brine" onto Ohio roadways as a de-icer and for dust control will accumulate radiation and more chemical poisons into the your constituents and your own backyards, and in schoolyards, parks, farm fields, cities, streams, water wells, etc. This will cause permanent damage to humans, crops, ponds, streams, animals and people, including your own families and future generations. The children have no voice in this matter of getting poisoned, but you do.

Any treatment to try to remove the dangerous toxins before putting it on the roadways will not remove all the toxins, and even if it could, it is very unlikely that the most expensive technology would be used. As we have found out sadly in Medina County, the Ohio EPA will not be testing the air from the NEXUS pipeline compressor station (which will have blow downs every 32 hours), the company is permitted to self report. Who would be testing this brine for safety? The big gas and oil companies? Those who will be making a profit on selling this so-called "brine" to Ohio know that there is almost no chance that extreme radiation or chemical toxicity will be cause because the testing will have to be done only four times per year and radiation from individual wells tremendously.

By legislating the use of this so-called "brine" (radioactive waste), you will be violating the federal Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and other provisions of the federal Resource Recover and Conservation Act. It is also a felony to "knowingly place a poison, hazardous chemical, biological or radioactive substance, or other harmful substance in a spring, well, reserver, or public water supply, if the person knows or has reason to know that the ... water may be ingested or used by another person." This is what you are looking at if anyone on the Committee permits the passage of HB 393 because you now are aware of the damage that this so-called "brine" will cause to public health, food, soil and to the environment. It will kill us all.

I would hope that you would stand up and protect the health and safety of your constituents, which is what you were elected to do. We The People have the right to live is a safe and healthy environment. Communities should have rights to decide what they want where they live. We the People should be able to decide and vote on this since it will be affecting all of us. Please do not continue to take our rights away from us and decide that we don't have the right to a safe and healthy environment. Remember, it isn't just our lives you will be harming, but yours and your own relatives as well and generations to come. Can you live with that?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Katharine Jones