

May 24, 2021

Jason Stephens, Chair Energy and Natural Resources Committee

I would like to voice opposition to HB 282 authorizing the sale of brine from oil/gas operations as a commodity because it contains dangerous levels of Radium 226 and Radium 228. This wastewater contains high levels of salt along with lead, radium, organic contaminants, and other heavy metals in concentrations above safe levels for drinking water. Researchers have found that nearly all the metals from brine leach out from roadways when it rains, and they speculate that the pollutants could wind up in nearby bodies of water and find their way into local drinking water sources.

Radium is radioactive and has been linked to bone marrow and lung cancer, while the health impacts of lead exposure range from lowered IQ levels and behavioral issues in children to kidney, brain, and central nervous system damage in adults. The researchers also found that the levels of salt in the brine pose a threat to aquatic life, and that some of the organic contaminants showed potential toxicity outcomes in human cells that have been linked to liver cancer in animal experiments.

The legislature should not be allowing this to spread on Ohio highways. There are no studies that prove that this is not toxic and frankly, any level of these chemicals in our water is toxic.

Let's protect the health of Ohio's children for generations.

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