

HB 193 Testimony
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- Land application and lagoon storage of biosolids are a significant environmental hazard. Multiple farms across the country have been condemned directly resulting from land application of biosolids on their property.
- Currently, residents have very little say about the introduction of these facilities into their communities.
- Facilities are in operation, planned or in construction phases across Ohio, including facilities in Madison Township in Perry County, Bath Township in Greene County, and Grafton Township in Lorain County, among others. In all these locations the residents are strongly against these facilities, and the only ones supporting them are those standing to profit from them.
- I'd like to describe our experience in Madison Township, with the proposed 20-million-gallon open air biosolids (sewage sludge) storage lagoon:
 - Residents became aware of the project after a local farmer noticed markers placed in one of the nearby fields. This led to a search of notices in the local paper, of very limited circulation, and a small ad was found, in August of 2021. The ad was very small, only a few lines. The facility mentioned was called a Nutrient Storage facility, with the facility description as Wastewater-Miscellaneous. Upon further investigation, residents soon learned that the so-called nutrients were called biosolids, which led to further investigation to determine that biosolids are in fact sewage sludge.
 - A meeting of concerned citizens was convened in Mount Perry in early September, and contact was made with the Ohio EPA requesting a public hearing.
 - The public hearing was conducted in October 2021, with over 200 concerned residents in attendance. The hearing lasted over two hours and numerous concerns were presented to the OEPA. The answer to all concerns was that such things weren't part of their evaluation process, or that the residents' concerns were not valid.
 - Madison Township Trustee's and Perry County Commissioners wrote letters to the OEPA condemning the project, but such notices fell on deaf ears.
 - Madison Township residents formed a non-profit organization and secured limited funding from donations to cover legal fees to continue to challenge the project in OEPA's ERAC appeal process. The appeal is on-going.
- With HB 193 in place the Mt Perry Nutrient Storage Facility would not have started. I support HB 193 and would hope to see further restrictions to biosolid lagoons and the land application of biosolids either as part of HB 193, or in future legislation.
- Environmental exposure to biosolids has detrimental effects on our food chain and our health. Deer we use for food forage on fields spread with biosolids. PFAS and microplastics, both having been detected in biosolids, are not monitored by the OEPA, and both have detrimental effects to our health and well-being.