

October 25, 2023

To: Representative Lampton

Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee

Ohio Statehouse

1 Capitol Square

Columbus, OH. 43215

From: Chris and Pam Gayheart, 1201 Artesian Lane, Fairborn, OH

RE: Biodigester on Herr Road

Dear Representative,

1. My husband and I are lifelong residents of Fairborn, Oh and chose to make Fairborn home after attending college. I work for the public schools in public relations and am a proud member of our community. Our community has passed numerous school levies to support the construction of all new school buildings with the support of OFCC and our local community. The impact that this biodigester has had on our community and will have on future generations is appalling. The smell from this 6 million gallon, open air sludge tank is not only not safe but is having a negative impact at a time we should all be celebrating as a community. We are part of a group of concerned citizens in Fairborn and Bath Township who encourage you to support the bill presented by Representative Brian Lampton and co-sponsored by Kevin Miller.

I listened intently to the testimony provided by Rep. Lampton on our behalf and would like to clarify some very important points. This is most definitely not a "shampoo" smell; unless shampoo smells like ammonia?

2. Members of the Agriculture Committee stated that when you live near farm country...you expect farm smells. This is a true statement but missing some very important facts. Mr. Pitstick and Renergy built the biodigester within five miles of a densely populated area in our community. Part of this is a newly-constructed housing development (where my husband and I live and chose to build our new home). We understand regular "farm" smells as our children participated in 4-H and raised hogs for show. We cleaned hog pens and washed our hogs for showmanship. This is NOT a farm smell. This is an ammonia smell that was "shared" **without our knowledge until after the structure was built and running**. We did not "choose" to live near ammonia. We are not able to sit outside; open our windows and read a book. This is completely unacceptable in our community. Additionally, the local roadways were not built for industrial traffic which is now running in and out of the Renergy biodigester and impacting the safe transportation of students to/from school.
3. Impacted residents are routinely reporting the ammonia smell to OEPA and via the "Smell My City" app with little or no impact. The OEPA has done nothing to support the air quality issues

we have been facing or to monitor what this may be doing to the aquifer and the air. Without local jurisdiction, we have no way to monitor or track what is happening and we are not getting the support from OEPA. In truth, due to the lack of oversight from the OEPA our community absolutely needs local oversight with trustees and commissioners who have been elected locally to help make decisions for their communities and to ensure that the facility is running safely.

4. Emergency management plans and a local voice at the table are critical moving forward for the benefit for all involved. The loopholes and lack of support from the OEPA have dealt our community a terrible problem.
5. Where is the responsibility of the owner of the land and Renergy/OEPA to make sure that our community's water and air are safe? The owner of the farm is making money on the backs of the entire community and township without any local supervision or accountability. This is unacceptable.

In summary, we know that green energy is the way of the future. Communication, local controls and safety measures must be put in place so that these facilities can run safely while not impacting entire communities without regard to health and safety issues. Please consider supporting this very important bill.

Respectfully,

Chris and Pam Gayheart

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