

Good Morning,

My name is Nikki Ransom, and I am here today to advocate for the future of Ohio's citizens, our water, air, land, and wildlife. I strongly urge you to vote NO on House Bill 170 to Establish process to regulate carbon capture, storage technology.

This is my first time presenting here, and I felt called to do so after studying this issue and learning more. My question to each of you is, "Have YOU studied this issue, taken into account the science and research that wasn't paid for by the oil and gas industry, and seriously contemplated the adverse effects it will have for Ohio land owners, residents, visitors, wildlife, and businesses?"

Frankly, I'm confused as to how this bill is even a possibility. In 2024, Ohio had 129 earthquakes. As of May 6th, 2025, we've had 138. The possibility of something going wrong with injecting CO2 into our heavily fracked state with extensive fault zones that may provide leakage points and paths where the CO2 can travel, and not having serious, life-threatening consequences, is utter insanity. I feel the need to make you aware, or maybe even remind some of you, that the marked increase in earthquake activity in our state has happened since the oil and gas industry has taken hold of it with its fracking practices. Injecting CO2 into Class VI injection wells in a state with increased seismic activity will undoubtedly cause irreparable harm somewhere when your constituents aren't expecting it. Please ask the residents surrounding the ruptured Dewbury pipeline near Satartia, Mississippi, what they wish their lawmakers had considered before their community faced the devastating February 2020 accident.

How is Ohio prepared to address such accidents, which can be miles away from any first-responding units? What plans have been presented to you before you vote today to protect Ohio if a catastrophic event occurs with CO2 injection and storage? Are you willing to share those plans with us here today, and those living in rural areas, miles away from any help, or is everyone on their own here and there? Plans, anyone? Is there a plan to notify every citizen who lives along any portion of the CO2 and fracking pipelines with instructions on how to prepare in the event of an accident similar to the Dewbury rupture? Plans, anyone?

Allowing the Ohio Department of Natural Resources chief to FORCE non-consenting property owners to use the "pore space" under their private land is also insanity. Private landowners in Ohio have already faced unitization procedures that were used to force them into oil and gas leases, giving them no right or ability to defend their homes and future livelihoods. This is similar.

CO2 capture and storage is an egregiously expensive and unproven technology that does not address the greenhouse gas emissions, environmental degradation, or public health consequences from building carbon capture storage and technology infrastructure, and the other forms of harmful pollution from the industries using carbon capture and storage. This is not a climate solution, but another handout to the oil and gas industry, intent on swindling Ohioans into paying for poisoning our air, land, and water.

This bill courts and protects the oil and gas industry doing business in our state, not our citizens and natural resources. Your vote today will clearly show the citizens of Ohio who and what you value more. I strongly urge you to Vote NO on House Bill 170 to protect ALL Ohioans now and in the future.