



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB YOUNG**  
**HOUSE DISTRICT 36**

Chairman Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

First, let me say on behalf of my joint sponsor Representative Jones and myself thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of HB 282 today. Put simply, HB 282 is trying to create a framework for the sale of brine water, an otherwise useless by-product of “vertical” oil and gas wells, to be used to help the de-icing of our roads.

Refined brine water is not raw brine, the immediate by-product from the oil and gas wells. It is brine, refined through an extensive process to the point where all oil and gas products are removed.

Studies have shown this recycled brine water is one of the most environmentally friendly and effective products for keeping our roads, bridges, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots safe when temperatures drop below 10 degree Fahrenheit when rock salt stops being as effective in controlling snow and ice.

This bill seeks to create public standards for this environmentally safe product and have it classified as a commodity that can be sold for de-icing legally, legitimately, and with proper regulation. The current regulations on this product are very cumbersome due to it being in the same category as raw brine, which is full of contaminants that refined brine water is not. Even with the new, less onerous regulations and framework of this bill for brine water, it will still be the most regulated product for the de-icing of our roads.

Under current law, raw brine can be used at a rate of up to 3,000 gallons per lane mile by local governments that enact a resolution to do so. The problem is that any entity or person wanting to use this refined, more environmentally-friendly brine water fall under the same regulations as raw brine. Currently, any entities or persons using the refined brine water must (a) register with ODNR as a “brine hauler”, (b) pay \$50, and (c) prepare an annual report to ODNR specifying the specific locations and amounts where they spread the product gallon-for-gallon (even if it’s a 2 gallon jug).

**Committees:**

Transportation & Public Safety  
Technology & Innovation  
Economic & Workforce Development  
Public Utilities

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Recycled brine water currently: is used by churches, retail establishments, colleges, universities and local governments to keep parking lots and sidewalks safe for patrons, has been tested and is widely used by our Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Ohio Turnpike to keep our roads safe during the winter months, is 70% less corrosive than rock salt on our infrastructure and constituent's vehicles, has been tested by the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection Division concluding application of this material poses a negligible radiological health risk to public health and safety. We are simply trying to take this environmentally friendly product and make it regulated and accessible for everyday consumers.

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Now that Representative Young has highlighted the benefits of brine and of this bill, I am here to tell what this bill is not. First, let me be clear in that this bill does not include the recycling or reuse of water from horizontal fracking wells. The water from these wells does not contain sufficient salt so it will freeze and not melt snow or ice to keep our roads safe.

Secondly, this bill does not create a monopoly. While there is one company in Mogadore, OH, in Rep. Young's district, that creates this product, any entity with the knowledge and equipment who can meet the same stringent requirements can also benefit from this legislation.

So, what does HB 282 do? It's as simple as 1,2,3. This legislation: (1) provides ODNR the ability to maintain the oversight of this recycling program and ongoing testing, (2) puts scientific testing standards in the statute to ensure utilization of recycled brine water poses an insignificant threat to public health, safety or the environment as reported by several authorities, and (3) prevents further government regulation unless the recycled brine water fails to meet these standards. At such point, ODNR can suspend the sale of the product.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of this bill. Representative Young and myself would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

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