

Hello –

My name is Dr. Bridget Lombard. I am a voter in Athens, Ohio and I am writing to ask Representative Stephens and the House Natural Resources Committee to oppose HB 282, which will establish conditions for the sale of 'brine' as a commodity, commercializing radioactive waste from oil and gas drilling for use on Ohio roads and sidewalks.

As a family physician, medical educator and mother of two, I am deeply concerned that a highly radioactive waste product, with a half-life of 1600 years, could be spread freely by consumers or road crews in Ohio communities. HB 282 would allow anyone, anywhere to spread this substance for dust or ice control. When spread on residential or commercial properties, it becomes easily transported into people's homes where its impact as a carcinogen would be most significant.

Testing done by ODNR reveals levels of radium 226 and 228 as high as 500 times background and 300 times the federal drinking water limits. Of particular importance, the radioactive isotope, radium 226, dissolves readily in water. When ingested, the body mistakes radium 226 for calcium and incorporates it into bone. The Environmental Working Group Tap Water Database tells us that at the current legal national maximum contaminant level, 7/100000 people will develop cancer due to radium 226 and 228 exposure. It is not reasonable or acceptable to adopt the use of this product as a deicer and expose Ohioans to a known carcinogen for years to come.

I have cared for many patients throughout my career and have been witness, both personally and professionally, to the way that cancer ravages the human body, young and old. I would not wish this on anyone. Please protect the long-term health and safety of all Ohioans and oppose this legislation. The health and safety of our communities and our children, my children, are more important than one individual's profit or the achievement of a short-term efficiency.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in considering the facts of this issue.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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