

Jason Stephens, Chair
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Stephens,

What is the legacy that you are prepared to leave your children and future generations?

I am Susie Beiersdorfer, a geologist and Community Rights advocate from Youngstown, Ohio.

I continue to be appalled as this is at least the third time that some version of a Brine bill has been introduced. Why would any rational person think that the industry should not be held accountable for radiation poisoning of life and our environment? I mean, it is egregious that this radioactive waste is already being spread and continues to be spread on roads across Ohio.

Last year our group, the Ohio Community Rights Network (OHCRN), sent letters to the families of legislators inquiring as to whether they knew what their family members were voting on. I have attached the letter as well as two other relevant documents that are timely and true.

Now, I am assuming that you know that this waste is not merely brine, salt water or "ancient sea water"; it is toxic radioactive waste that will poison people and the environment for thousands of years. It is a naturally occurring part of the chemistry of the sandstone reservoirs and the black shale formations. Also, Please don't believe that they are actually differentiating between vertically and horizontally generated waste from wells and that one is "safer". Oh no, THIS is all about avoiding liability and dumping the long term health and economic consequences on government (the people).

The FACT that the ODNR tested AquaSalina and found that the radioactive levels were far higher than federal and state regulated limits for radium 226 and 228 should be REASON ENOUGH to stop this bill in committee. Unfortunately FACTS don't often matter when industry is pulling the strings.

For scientific research, I purchased AquaSalina when it was being sold at Lowe's in the Streetsboro, Cleveland and Summit County areas. The FACT that consumers and those who work at Lowe's had no clue that they were handling a radioactive product didn't surprise me because the industry doesn't inform their own workers. I know several former brine truck drivers who have recurring radiation poisoning flare ups and other health issues. THIS is Criminal behavior with no consequences.

The industry's continuous attempts to recruit politicians to sponsor bills that would exempt them from the liability and responsibility of poisoning our children and the environment that they need to survive, further exposes just how little OUR government serves the people that they are elected to represent. I also know that the industry writes many of these types of bills for their benefit through ALEC or other deals.

AND thankfully there are growing numbers of concerned residents who will no longer tolerate the pollution for profit that destroys the health and well-being of Ohio's people and the environment that sustains us.

Please thoughtfully and thoroughly consider the testimonies of informed and concerned residents of Ohio as you also consider which legacy YOU will leave your children and future generations.

Sincerely,

Susie Beiersdorfer
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