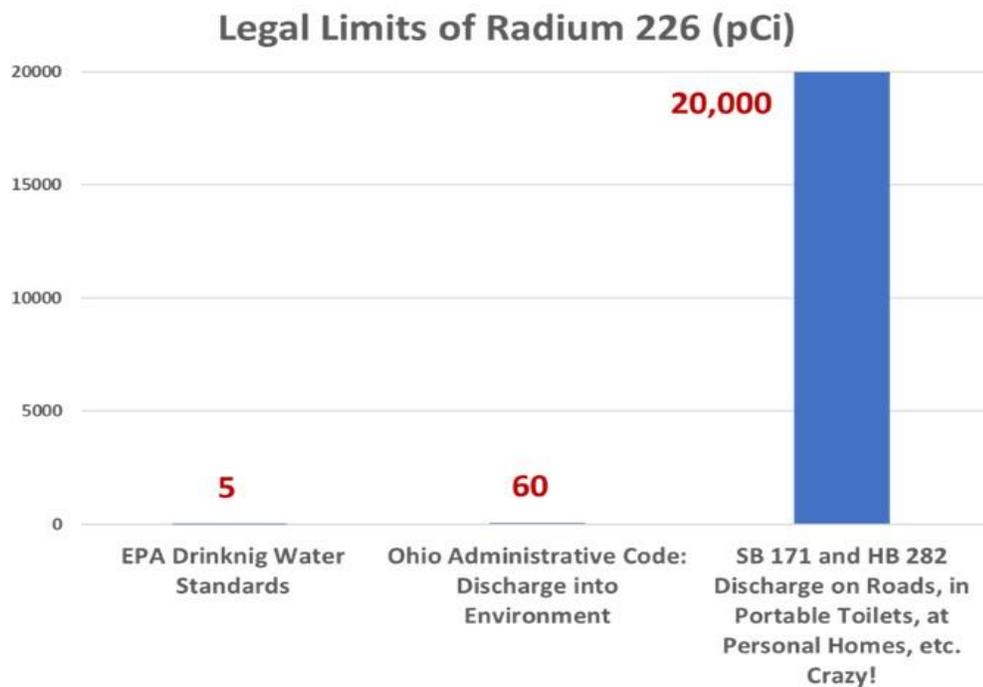


Radium kills. Vote 'No' on HB 282

My name is Vanessa Pesec and I have a biochemistry degree from Brown University. For the past decade, I have been immersed in issues related to oil and gas. Of special concern is that oil and gas waste can be radioactive, with high levels of radium 226 and radium 228. Per the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), "Exposure to high levels of radium results in an increased incidence of bone, liver, and breast cancer. The EPA and the National Academy of Sciences, Committee on Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation, has stated that radium is a known human carcinogen." Furthermore, radium 226's half-life is 1,600 years. If this radioactive material is applied to the environment, it will be around for thousands of years.

The bill before you would mainly benefit AquaSalina, which has been tested by ODNR and shown to have a concentration of radium 226 as high as **7,415 pCi/l**. To put this into perspective, the State of Ohio discharge limit into the environment is **60 pCi/l** and the allowable amount of radium 226 in drinking water is **5 pCi/l**.

As shocking as this is, HB 282 allows an astronomical **20,000 pCi/l** of radium 226 in the "brine" as a commodity bill.



“Brine” is the toxic, radioactive liquid waste from a well. A company, such as Aquasalina, may filter out numerous contaminants, but does not filter out a substantial amount of radium 226 and 228 and the levels can be quite harmful to health.

Additionally, HB 282 would remove much of ODNR’s common-sense and safety oversight. This could be extremely dangerous. For instance, oil and gas companies do not have to divulge their “trade secret” chemicals used in drilling and extracting oil and gas. In the future, it may come to light that one of these secret chemicals is found to harm human health, is dissolved in the “brine,” and must be tested and monitored. HB 282 would not allow ODNR to test and implement limits to any “brine” that is a commodity, and thus not keep Ohioans safe.

About 500,000 gallons of AquaSalina was spread on the State roads in 2018-2019. Imagine, you drive on the highway a lot, with your young kids in the car as they visit their grandparents and go to school. During snowstorms, the aerosolized particles enter the car vents. Days after the storm, the dry road particles waft through the air vents into your car. This happens all winter. You find out that the deicer the State has been using, and the particles you’ve been breathing all winter, every winter, for years, contain high levels of cancer-causing radium that your children are particularly susceptible to. You’re outraged. You think this must be brought to the Ohio legislators’ attention to stop. But you find that your legislators knew the product could harm your children. Not only did they know about it, but they actually voted for it.

Please don’t let this be your legacy. Vote ‘NO’ on HB 282. Keep Ohioans safe.