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**To Chairman Tim Schaffer and All Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:**

As an Ohioan concerned about the increasing hazardous environment degradation of our state, I have some questions about why our state senators are devoting their precious time and mighty efforts to S. B. No. 171, the bill that would permit the sale of brine from oil or gas operations as a commodity.

Is it due to the public's cry for such legislation? Are the people of Ohio demanding that our senators prioritize permitting the sale of fracking waste? It seems to me that Ohioans are dealing, even before the pandemic, with far graver problems that need your attention. Why then, is the Senate focusing on this particular issue? If it is in response to pressure from ordinary residents, I applaud your commitment to meeting our needs. If not, how then is SB 171 able to command time during Senate hearings?

I oppose the sale of fracking's brine for the same reasons you will hear during today's testimonies. It is dangerous material that cannot be easily extracted from our water, soil, and air. Indeed, regardless of how many millions in clean-up are eventually spent, Ohioans will never be able to fully cleanse our environment of all of fracking brine's toxic particulates. We all know that the most harmed will be the children whose brains are still forming while less wealthy neighborhoods and communities of color will experience the worst of the hazards of this brine once it is sold as a commodity. No one, however, will be completely safe from it.

Without a doubt, you will hear far more SB 171 opponent than proponent testimonies this week. My understanding is that in the Ohio Assembly, gas and oil lobbyists outrank ordinary citizens approximately one to twenty-five on environmental bills. I am asking that you break this trend by seriously considering what your constituents have to say. Since very few of us are paid to speak up, you can be sure that we do so out of our sincere commitment to the well-being and future prospects of our state. Some of us have another reason, a much-battered belief that one day, democracy will triumph.

This brings me to my initial question about why SB 171 is on the Senate agenda. Are Ohioans pressuring you for this bill? If not us, who? This is important because in a genuine democracy, leaders represent the will of the people. I want Ohio to be a safe space for genuine democracy. I also want it to be a safe space for all people, living

creatures, and organism (except perhaps some bugs and all mosquitos) to grow and flourish.

Please put the people of Ohio before profits of a dying industry. I am seriously counting on every member of this committee to do so. If the people are demanding passage of SB171, then pass it. If we are not, then I assume you will do you duty and vote against it.

Thank you,

Sandy Bolzenius