

Tim Schaffer, Chair
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
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Chairman Schaffer,

As a long-time Ohio resident, who has tried to take care of her self and her family, I am appalled that the legislature is even considering SB 171.

I began to be concerned about oil and gas drilling in 2010 when our part of NE Ohio was targeted for unconventional drilling and the subsequent industrialization of rural and residential areas. I began serious research to find experts who had done the research and documented the harms from every part of fossil fuel extraction (such as [Professor Tony Ingraffea](#)), [Fractracker](#), the [Concerned Health Professionals of NY](#), and [Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy](#), and [the Endocrine Disruption Exchange](#), among other sources). The more I researched, the more I learned it was every part of fossil fuel extraction from the beginning to dealing with the waste that was harmful, and it was conventional as well as unconventional extraction, as well as injection underground of the waste that is harmful.

I've now worked for the last decade with neighbors and others across Ohio, using citizen initiatives to try to protect my health and the health of my community, and all communities across Ohio, because the legislature has not been protecting us. All fossil fuel extraction requires the use of toxic chemicals. The "produced water" or waste that comes up with the gas or oil not only contains those toxic chemicals, but has also acquired radioactivity from the rock. I learned that Clinton sandstone is actually found at deeper levels underground than Marcellus shale, at least according to the information I found on ODNR's website. I learned that the deeper you go underground, the more radiation there is.

When we learned that the liquid coming back up from this process was being spread on roads and that the liquid contained many harmful chemicals including radium, we had to learn even more. We found articles stating that the brine from conventional wells was actually more toxic than from some of the unconventional samples.

I was horrified when I discovered that the very government that was supposed to protect us had declared this toxic waste was a "commodity" and could be sold as a deicer under the name AquaSalina. Then I found out that our ODNR had tested the very product and found it radioactive---although it was supposed to be cleaned.

Why the Ohio legislature is passing any legislation regarding gas and oil waste except something to ban any more production of this toxic waste is a scandal. Once you have learned this information, you can no longer pretend not to know it.

Please do your job and protect the people you serve, not the industry that is harming the people. This waste is not some mere "commodity." Now I understand that many different issues come before you and you can't do your own research on all of them. But do you really believe that turning over the testing to the person/industry that is supposed to be regulated is a good idea? That allowing them to

select their own lab and take in their own sample is the best way to protect us and the environment? Do you really believe that a person/industry who stands to profit from selling a waste product should be relied on to provide unbiased data?

Here are Links to information you might want to consider before voting to make oil and gas “brine” a commodity:

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2018/01/20/study-conventional-drilling-waste-responsible-for-radioactivity-spike-in-rivers/>

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/oil-gas-fracking-radioactive-investigation-937389/>

<https://www.desmog.com/2020/04/29/syrian-job-oil-industry-radioactive-secret/>

<https://www.desmog.com/2021/04/22/lotus-llc-radioactive-fracking-waste-disposal-texas/>

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.8b00716>

[ODNR report on Aqua Salina](#)

[ODNR Chief's Orderhttps://endocrinedisruption.org](https://endocrinedisruption.org)

<https://www.psehealthyenergy.org>

<https://www.cee.cornell.edu/faculty-directory/anthony-r-ingraffea>

<https://fractracker.networkforgood.com>

<https://concernedhealthny.org/compendium/>

Sincerely,

Gwen B. Fischer

Professor Emerita Gwen B Fischer