

Opposition Testimony of SB 171

June 21, 2021

Tim Schaffer, Chair
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Schaffer:

I am a resident of Medina County and a Board Member of the Ohio Community Rights Network (OHCRN). OHCRN is concerned with keeping Ohio's water, air, soil and natural resources free from contamination from oil and gas waste products. OHCRN members have learned from the experts that **members of the public will be exposed to serious health risks** if this "brine bill" is passed, as radioactive material will pass directly through skin contact, dust, ingestion of radioactive dust on crops, and via of drinking water supplies. The EPA and the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation have stated that radium is a known human carcinogen. Other environmental groups have also been opposing this bill because a state report showed that this oil and gas waste "brine" has radium levels up to 500 times higher than federal drinking water limits.

It is alarming that you would sponsor a bill such as this that would harm your constituents and even your own family. The public will never know where this product has been used, whether on roadways, porch stoops, sidewalks and public and school parking lots, driveways, public restrooms, farmlands, etc. Our elected officials also will never know where it is being used and ODNR will never know either because the bill has removed any requirements to track the use of spreading of the waste. The public will also not know this product contains radium when they purchase it.

Some version of this "brine bill" has been introduced at least three times and, as a matter of fact, in 2018 State Rep. Michael O'Brien, removed himself as a co-sponsor of an earlier version of the "brine bill" because he said the brine's radioactivity was "concerning".

The time is up. It is time to listen to "We the People". Please Kill the Bill! Your children and grandchildren will thank you one day.

Sincerely,

Kathie Jones
Sharon Township/Medina County, Ohio

