



Dear Senators,

On behalf of FaCT-Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future, I would like to share with you the reason we feel SB 171 should not be adopted.

In examining the proposed legislation, we note that the maximum brine standard for Ra 226 and Ra 228 are recklessly high. The EPA standard for Ra 226 in the environment is 60 picocuries per liter, while proposed SB171 allows for up to 20,000 picocuries per liter in gas well brine that can be used as a de-icer or dust control agent. Ra 226 when infiltrating the human body is treated by the body like calcium and is therefore taken up into the bones. This is clearly an alarming hazard for bone and other cancers. And we know that once brine is spread on roads and other surfaces, it will be aerosolized and breathed in by people. It can also be tracked into homes on shoes, exposing residents to this hazard in their very homes.

For ten years now, FaCT has been working to protect the health and safety of Ohio families, especially from harmful toxins introduced from the oil/gas and petrochemical industry.

Proposed SB 171 is one of the worst threats we have seen to human health from these industries. The fact that this radioactive brine can be spread all over surfaces in the state, exposing unsuspecting persons to this serious health hazard without them even knowing it, makes this an especially egregious violation of the rights of people to be safe and secure and healthy in their homes and in their communities. As people of faith, we feel compelled to strenuously oppose SB171 and the harms that it would cause if adopted.

Sincerely,

Ron Prosek, President