

Opponent Testimony on House Bill 282
Establish Conditions for Brine Sale
Before the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
By Peggy Ann Berry, LWV Ohio Environmental Specialist
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Chairman Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee: Thank you for allowing my written testimony. My name is Peggy Ann Berry. I am an environmental lobbyist with the League of Women Voters of Ohio. I am also a registered nurse with a PhD, certified as an occupational health nurse and Fellow with the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses. The LWVO has studied water issues under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources since 1955 and has found legislation lacks support on stricter guidance regarding runoff to our Great Lakes, streams, and rivers. As such, the LWVO does not support the use of brine salts from oil/gas wells packaged as a commodity for de-icing or dust suppression because it will eventually become runoff into the Great Lakes, streams and rivers of Ohio affecting the drinking water of millions and health of those water sources. The League of Women Voters of Ohio opposes SB171, regarding the sale of brine from oil/gas operations as a commodity. We have entered past testimony against making brine a commodity for transportation and sale as a de-icer or dust suppressant on roads. This radioactive material is then washed off in the rain, snow, and ice into Ohio watersheds, moving it directly into streams and rivers used for drinking water. When used as a dust suppressant, particles can become airborne and inhaled by children, adults, and family pets or farm animals using rural roads.

In addition, scientists at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources analyzed Agua Salina in 2017 finding it had 500 times background radiation in Radium-226 and -228. Even ODNR's samples measured at 300 times the federal drinking water limits for Radium-226.¹ It is not in Ohio's best interest to poison its constituents and workers with radioactive brine. Those workers hauling this waste are already at risk due to exposure to this toxic waste.² Over time, radiation can accumulate in the body and increase the odds of cancer. That's why, for example, x-ray technicians are monitored. So why would this bill come up again and again? Please stop this bill from becoming law. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio was formed in May 1920 out of Ohio's woman suffrage movement. The League is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League has over 4000 members and 32 local Leagues across the Buckeye State.

¹ [Don't be fooled - don't buy bottled radioactive waste! | ColumbusFreePress.com](http://ColumbusFreePress.com)

² [Beyond Fracking: Oil-and-Gas Industry's Toxic Waste Is Radioactive - Rolling Stone](http://Rolling Stone)