

06/21/2023

To: Representative Lambert,
Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

I am Jude Eschete, a 32-year-old Marine Corps veteran, currently residing only 1.5 miles away from the Renergy biodigester, at 257 Warm Springs Dr., Fairborn, Ohio. I am compelled to address this committee due to the severe distress and daily hardship caused by the persistent issues linked to the operations of this facility.

Like many in our community, I am severely affected by the foul odor emanating from the biodigester. The smell permeates my home and directly impacts my wellbeing, significantly more so because of my health condition that necessitates the use of a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine for sound sleep. With the CPAP, the need for clean and fresh air is not a mere convenience but a health necessity. The persistent odors from the biodigester, entering through the CPAP machine, lead to a range of health problems. I frequently wake up with a severe cough, a burning sensation in my throat, and irritated, burning eyes. This has not only affected the quality of my sleep but also my overall health and wellbeing.

In addition to these health-related issues, I find myself grappling with the inability to enjoy my home freely. The overwhelming smell makes it impossible to keep windows open, leading to escalated cooling costs and persistent discomfort. Moreover, the situation has become a source of embarrassment, deterring me from inviting guests to my home. The presence of the biodigester has resulted in both physical discomfort and mental distress. The anxiety concerning property values, potential long-term health effects, and the overall quality of life is real and immediate.

Our community's concerns are not just about the present conditions but the future as well. We need to understand what plans are in place should our water become contaminated, or if our health is severely compromised. It seems that we are placing a high emphasis on short-term economic growth at the risk of long-term, potentially irreversible damage to our community and its citizens.

My plea to you, as our elected representatives, is to seriously consider the impacts on constituents like me. I request you to support and push for changes that would protect our health, wellbeing, and property rights. This plea is not just a personal testimony but a call for action.

I wish to express my support for SB 119. This bill is a necessary and significant step towards alleviating our concerns and moving towards a solution. I respectfully urge you to use your authority to protect us from further harm and to restore our faith in a system designed to safeguard our interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this pressing issue. I appreciate your commitment to addressing the concerns of our community.

Respectfully,

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