

Members of the Committee, I am writing as a proponent of HB 193. My name is Dr. Lora Wolph and I live in Seneca County, Ohio. I am concerned as an Ohio citizen about the issues related to waste management and the lack of local control and necessary oversight to protect human health.

If I can play Devil's advocate I will begin by mentioning the common arguments we all hear. One is that "it has to go somewhere", and another is that "nuisance odors are expected in rural areas." We can all agree that waste must go somewhere, but why must it go near residential areas instead of shipping it to desolate areas? The reason we are told is that it isn't cost effective. It cuts into their massive profits. This isn't safe to those living near these facilities and is the definition of environmental injustice. We are not a third world country and no one should be forced to stay inside due to poorly run facilities. The idea that nuisance odors are expected in rural areas is also true. However, these are not normal farm odors, they are actually pockets of harmful gas that lead to health problems. Hydrogen sulfide gas and other HAPs (hazardous air pollutants) that may or may not be noticed by smell, should be monitored at these facilities. The communities living near them should be protected. Children, pregnant women, elderly and those with respiratory conditions are more susceptible to immediate health effects and chronic, low level exposure may lead to serious health conditions years later. Intermediate exposure up to 365 days should be below 20 ppb. (see attached reference) These pockets of gas are low-lying and can travel long distances and can cause risks of explosions as well as water contamination. Hydrogen sulfide gas that comes from farms does not set off our Jerome meters and were proven to be below the level of concern.

Gas that is trapped in homes can persist for up to 42 days. Many people experience migraines, shortness of breath, eye irritation, nose bleeds and asthma attacks when exposed to these gas pockets emitted from these facilities. The best management practice would be to install stationary Jerome meters (meters used to detect H<sub>2</sub>S) in order to determine the level of exposure to the community and take measures to limit the gas levels. Comprehensive air quality studies should be required by the facility as well as methods to mitigate the gas release.

While most people will agree with economic development, they do not agree to one business harming all of the others in the area. No business has the right to harm their neighbors. The community is losing business, property value and quality of life as a result of this one business. The citizens deserve the right to clean air and use of their property. Citizens should not be forced to live in fear for their health and wellbeing just by walking outside or opening a window. There are many studies now linking biosolid use on farmland to PFAS contamination in the soil and food.

We know in Seneca County about the hazardous air pollution because we also have lived with HAPs due to a mismanaged landfill in our community. The Clean Air Act is only useful if it is

enforced, and it is not. We have had years of odor complaints with absolutely no relief from the OEPA. Citizens should not be forced to file litigation themselves. These companies have much deeper pockets to fight back. We should be able to depend on our own state agencies to enforce the laws but they have become captured agencies that are helping certain big businesses. They have allowed the situation to grow in Ohio due to lack of OEPA oversight and failure to comply with Ohio Revised Code.

We must give the citizens the right to vote on these matters that affect their daily lives. If it must go somewhere, then we should require that it go somewhere far away from human beings or find ways to prevent harm. It is the job of the OEPA to protect the environment, and ensure safe air to breathe, and they have failed. We must ensure local control for affected communities. All facilities that are known to release harmful air pollutants should be required to install H<sub>2</sub>S/SO<sub>2</sub>/methane and ammonia detection meters as well as gas containment or conversion systems to PREVENT pollution, rather than respond after the damage is done. We cannot continue to destroy our soil and food supply with PFAS (forever chemicals) contamination found in biosolids. This is in no way a "public benefit". Many times these companies just restructure, sell off, or rename their company and start over; thus creating the same problems. Please consider passing this legislation to protect Ohio communities.

Lora Wolph, BA, DC, DiplAc.

Fostoria, Ohio- Seneca County

Reference:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-12/documents/appendix\\_e-atsdr\\_h2s\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-12/documents/appendix_e-atsdr_h2s_factsheet.pdf)