

Dear Senator Reineke,

Thank you for your efforts on SB 119 and SB 52. My husband Ed and I own 0 County Road 23 in Hancock County. We grow corn, wheat, and soy beans on these 98 acres. However this farm is being threatened by the Sunny Farm a ½ mile to the east and directly across the road to the north by a Cypress Creek Renewables solar project. I am all for proper places to dispose of waste however as you outline in SB 119 it needs to be regulated and we need to control how much of it comes from out of state. Also we need to hold Mr. Nutter and Win accountable for getting the proper permits before constructing substations and keep them in Seneca county. Hancock county has our own landfill roughly 15 miles away and Sunny Farm is only ½ a mile away, but we can't use Sunny Farms. However Sunny Farms uses us every day. I grew up outside of Rawson on a farm and moved to my maternal great grandparents dairy farm outside McComb before marrying and moving to Arcadia/Fostoria area to help my husband run the family farm. The smell used to be so bad that it burnt my nose and then when I moved into the edge of Arcadia you could still smell it 3 miles away. The East Portage creek runs through this farm and winds around to my in laws farm and the family farm. The East Portage frequently floods when we get rain and reaches into our garden area and my in laws basement. What kind of contamination gets into the well from Sunny Farm? We don't know, but it can't be good. Hoping to get the creek and well tested once plant 23 is done. When looking into the East Portage creek do you see much aquatic life? Growing up I spent a majority of my time on our 115 acre farm in the creek and saw lots of crayfish, fish, turtles, and other aquatic life. I very rarely see maybe a turtle when down at the east Portage creek and no other aquatic life. My husband is the 3rd generation to farm from his family and some day hopefully our son will be the 4th. He is the third person in his family to serve on the Washington township zoning and is currently the commission chairman. We both are members of the Arcadia FFA Alumni and I serve as the president. I also help younger kids learn about 4-H as a cloverbud advisor. Our youth need to understand where our food comes from and about agriculture. For the past 3 years we have been opposing the Border Basin and South Branch Solar projects taking away good productive farm land in Cass and Washington townships of Hancock County. Currently 1 in 4 children are hungry and taking away farm land for the land fill and solar will only cause those numbers to rise. Please help stop the expansion, future expansion of a substation into Hancock county, and help get the NPDES permit denied for Sunny Farm. Help us prohibit a future solar project from taking farm land away that neighbors would gladly farm instead of absentee land owners and farmers from Crawford county. Help us protect our drinking water as they plan to put floating panels on Fostoria reservoir, which supplies to Fostoria, Arcadia, and Red Hawk development. Please help us protect our farm and family farm. Keep traditional agriculture in and out of state waste and solar off farm land. Thank you for your time.

Rachelle Harmon