PR

Request for Assistance

SENATOR SHERROD BROWN

NAME Dr. George Banziger, Dr. Ted Auch, Dr. Randi Pokladnik HOME PHONE (740) 434-5685

ADDRESS 202 Lawton Road CELL PHONE (740) 434-3354

CITY Marietta WORK PHONE (____)_____

STATE OH ZIP 45750 COUNTY Washington EMAIL gbanz42@suddenlink.net

SS#_____ DOB _____ Medicare#_____

CLAIM#/CASE#_____

(Provide these numbers only if necessary to investigate your case.)

Dear Senator Brown:

I am seeking your assistance in a personal matter involving the federal government. I hereby authorize your office to request, on my behalf, that the appropriate federal agency or agencies investigate the following: (Use reverse side or additional paper, as needed.)

On January 6, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a WEBEX meting to share data and gather public input on the ongoing process of writing a new Muskingum Watershed Plan. Unfortunately, the WEBEX platform link did not work for many of the attendees, including the three of us (Dr. Ted Auch, Dr. George Banziger and Dr. Randi Pokladnik), and we had to access the meeting via phone. During the 60-minute meeting 10 minutes were devoted to introductions, and 34 minutes to the presentation by the USACE representative. This left less than 20 minutes for actual public comment. We were left to wonder if, in fact, this was only token participation rather than a meaningful attempt at public participation. Our first request for assistance is that the senator's office help us to arrange another public comment period on the Watershed Plan with sufficient time for meaningful public comment. (continued on next page)

I further authorize, under the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, that the agency or agencies involved have my permission to disclose information from their records about my case or claim to the office of Senator Sherrod Brown.

SIGNATURE Dr. George Banziger DATE 22 January 2022

Please return this completed form and any other relevant information to:

Mail: Senator Sherrod Brown, 801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 1400, Cleveland, OH 44113

Fax: 216-522-2239 **Email: casework@brown.senate.gov**

If you have questions call: **Phone: 216-522-7272** **Toll-Free Number: 888-896-6446 (Press 1)**

ATTN: Pam Rosado

Our second request for assistance is that the senator assist in convincing the USACE to include the impact of the oil & gas industry in southeast Ohio on the Muskingum Watershed in the plan.

During the USACE presentation “resource objectives” were presented for each project. However, there was no mention of stakeholders’ concerns. In August, Pokladnik along with many stakeholders and environmental groups in the watershed, sent in a substantial list of comments with peer reviewed sources. Not one of these comments concerning the effects of oil and gas development in the watershed was addressed during the meeting. We were told by one of the speakers that only fee land (property owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers) was to be in the plan.

Stakeholders expressed many concerns about oil and gas in the Initial Watershed Assessment (2012 plan), and even though some of these concerns were brought up in the Final Watershed Assessment 2018, the topic was significantly down-played. There were no maps of well locations, no data tables of water withdrawals, no data on injection wells, and no recommendations as to how to address the degradation on the landscape and water resources from the activities of hydraulic fracking and its infrastructure. The IWA 2012 plan had 7 pages of information on fracking; the 2018 FWP had 7 paragraphs.

The residents of the watershed have watched as brine trucks travel back and forth along the lakes; as frack pads spread across the rural forested land like a cancer; as water is withdrawn from lakes and streams (at the average rate of one million gallons per production well) to be permanently contaminated with hazardous chemicals and radionuclides; as pipelines cross the streams and rivers often spilling toxic chemicals into these bodies of water as was the case with the Tuscarawas River. (continued on next page)

Our third request involves the primacy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as the key agency for permitting and monitoring injection wells in the state. This primacy was granted by the U.S.E.P.A.. Given all the health and environmental risks and the failed oversight of the ODNR, we would ask that the USEPA withdraw primacy of the ODNR for injection wells and request the senator's help in that regard.

There is much information that this form does not allow us to include in this request. We would, therefore, respectfully request a Zoom meeting with the senator's office to review the significant additional information that bears upon this issue.

Thank you,

Dr. George Banziger, Dr. Ted Auch, and Dr. Randi Pokladnik