**Reports for Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting, July 17, 2022**

ReImagine Appalachia

In a meeting I had with virtually with Natalia Rudiak of ReImagine Appalachia, she explained that the process of getting endorsements for the ReImagine Appalachia Resolution has reached its peak. She asked my assistance in reaching out to statewide municipal groups.

In an issue related to ReImagine Appalachia, I attended a webinar on June 28 sponsored by Ohio River Valley Institute in which Sean O’Leary described the approach of strategic communications to persuade people in Appalachia to endorse a green economy. He advocated a focus on “persuadable opponents,” who are open to some criticisms of the natural gas business.

Citizens Climate Lobby

On July 15 we learned that Senator Manchin of WV has rejected the climate provisions of the Reconciliation Bill. This effectively kills much hope of getting serious climate change action from the current Congress.

` CCL members are also asked to urge members of Congress to support “secondary asks,” such as the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

I sent another draft LTE to Chris Hoke of Tyler County WV; she has also agreed to submit the LTE to the Charleston Gazette, Its content is similar to the Climate Corner article I wrote for the News & Sentinel that was published in April 23. The Letter form Chris was published in the Gazette on June 14. CCL knows that Manchin and his staff read this newspaper, and his staff make note whenever Manchin’s name is mentioned in an op-ed or LTE—that’s why I mentioned his name twice in this LTE.

The Great Lakes chapters of CCL are sponsoring a get-out-the-vote initiative in Wisconsin and Ohio. The rationale for this project is that many people have been energized by recent Supreme Court decisions (e.g., Roe v. Wade and WV v EPA) and this energy needs to be harnessed to getting people to the poles. Candidates who support abortion rights are also likely also to support actions to address climate change.

Injection Wells

No word from County Commissioner, Charlie Schilling, yet if he has received written assurances of what ODNR officials told him on June 9 about informing local officials about new applications for injection wells.

No public word yet about the May 25 Bordas and Bordas law suit in the Washington County Circuit Court identifying 16 defendants (all brine disposal companies) and 132 allegations on behalf of oil/gas producer Bob Lane; a similar law suit was filed on behalf of Bob Wilson.

I am meeting with Melissa Ostroff from Pittsburgh on Monday July 18 to place some VOC (volatile organic compounds) monitors near injection wells n Washington County in order to assess the impact of these wells on air quality.

A larger issue related to this opportunity is that of “primacy,” i.e., the U.S. EPA granted authority to ODNR to review applications and monitor injection wells in the state. In response to a question about this matter at the June 2 meeting regarding the application for an injection well in Little Hocking, ODNR stated that impact on air quality is the responsibility of Ohio EPA. Of course, the Ohio EPA is not part of the permitting process for Class II injection wells. There is an effort, in which I have been involved to challenge this primacy. Sierra Club lawyers are working on this issue.

George Banziger