**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting – August 21, 2022**

Injection Wells

Since the June 2 meeting with ODNR officials and my communication with County Commissioner, Charlie Schilling, I have been in contact with Megan Hunter, an attorney with Earth Justice in Chicago. She and her colleagues are developing a formal challenge to the primacy that US EPA has granted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Division of Oil & Gas Resources Management) to issue permits and monitor Class II injection wells in Ohio. Ms. Hunter has received the summary of my research on injection wells in Washington County. She asked me to send a letter to US EPA (D.C. and Region V office) and copy her about my issues with ODNR. She also asked if Bob Lane, oil and gas producer who is filing a legal suit against injection well companies, and County Commissioner, Charlie Schilling would be interested in submitting a letter to US EPA. I checked with Bob Lane, and he is willing; he’s also agreeable to my drafting the letter for him.

Jim Grecni just alerted me to an article on the front page of the Marietta Times (August 18) announcing a meeting about injection wells. It’s apparently organized by concerned citizens and will be held on Monday, August 22 at the Freedom Gate Church at 104 Tennis Center Dr in Marietta. That is all I know at this writing—I’ll be out of town on that day.

Citizens Climate Lobby

There was an enthusiastic and celebratory response to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Bill and the subsequent signing by the president among CCL members nationwide. There is a one-page summary of the IRA that was produced by CCL which appears at the end of this report.\*

There is concern that if Republicans win back the House, efforts will begin to repeal this Act. CCL is urging members to work hard to get out the vote for the fall 2022 mid-term elections. In past elections environmentalists have voted in lower proportions than the general populations of voters.

ReImagine Appalachia

In one of my conversations with Charlie Schilling, President of the Washington County Commissioners, he mentioned that there might be opportunities for economic development and job creation on projects related to plugging orphan wells in the county. I did some research on this idea and received some documents from the Ohio River Valley Institute on the scale of the problem of orphan wells in Appalachia and funding opportunities. I sent those documents to Mr. Schilling—no response from him yet. I suggested that he might ask Rob Grant, the recently hired grants administrator for the County, to research this issue.

On August 18 I attended a webinar called Speed Up Dating, sponsored by ReImagine Appalachia. This session involved presentations about ideas for sustainable manufacturing in the region. There were several presentations including ideas about re-purposing coal and steel facilities into eco-parks, obtaining support for manufacturing of electric vehicles and batteries for EVs in the region, manufacturing of alternatives to single-use plastics, restoring natural infrastructure, re-establishing a version of the Civilian Conservation Corps to hire the formerly incarcerated and those in drug rehabilitation to work on tree planting and other restoration projects. Other presenters were from the Blue/Green Alliance (ensuring good union jobs in the region), coal field development, those working on abandoned mine lands, projects sponsored by the League of Women Voters involving in community workshops of economic development, and those providing assistance on grant seeking. I found out that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Division of Oil & Gas Resources Management) provides grants for orphan-well plugging.

\***SUMMARY: THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022**

*Updated: August 11th, 2022*

The *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* will make a historic down payment on deficit reduction to fight inflation, invest in domestic energy production and manufacturing, and reduce carbon emissions by roughly 40 percent by 2030. The bill will also finally allow Medicare to negotiate for prescription drug prices and extend the expanded Affordable Care Act program for three years, through 2025.

Additionally, the agreement calls for comprehensive Permitting reform legislation to be passed before the end of the fiscal year. Permitting reform is essential to unlocking domestic energy and transmission projects, which will lower costs for consumers and help us meet our long-term emissions goals.

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| **TOPLINE ESTIMATES: TOTAL REVENUE RAISED** | **$737 billion** |
| *15% Corporate Minimum Tax* | *222 billion\** |
| *Prescription Drug Pricing Reform* | *265 billion\*\*\** |
| *IRS Tax Enforcement* | *124 billion\*\** |
| *1% Stock Buybacks Fee* | *74 billion\** |
| Loss Limitation extension | 52 billion\* |
| **TOTAL INVESTMENTS** | **$437 billion** |
| *Energy Security and Climate Change* | *369 billion\** |
| *Affordable Care Act Extension* | *64 billion\*\** |
| Western Drought Resiliency | 4 billion\*\*\* |
| **TOTAL DEFICIT REDUCTION** | **$300+ billion** |

**The Inflation Reduction Act:**

1. **Expands Medicare benefits:** free vaccines (2023), $35/month insulin (2023) and caps out-of-pocket drug costs to an estimated $4,000 or less in 2024 and settling at $2,000 in 2025

2. **Lowers energy bills:** cuts energy bills by $500 to $1,000 per year

3. **Makes historic climate investment:** reduces carbon emissions by roughly 40% by 2030

4. **Lowers health care costs:** saves the average enrollee $800/year in the ACA marketplace, allows Medicare to negotiate 100 drugs over the next decade, and requires drug companies to rebate back price increases higher than inflation

5. **Creates manufacturing jobs:** more than $60 billion invested will create millions of new domestic clean manufacturing jobs

6. **Invests in disadvantaged communities:** cleaning up pollution and taking steps to reducing environmental injustice with $60 billion for environmental justice

7. **Closes tax loopholes used by wealthy:** a 15% corporate minimum tax, a 1% fee on stock buybacks and enhanced IRS enforcement

8. Protects families and small business making $400,000 or less

George Banziger