**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting – December18, 2022**

Citizens Climate Lobby.

CCL is asking its members to contact members of Congress about “secondary asks,” such as the RISEE, Act, Growing Climate Solutions, and NCARS, with special emphasis on RISEE. All of these items involve in some way reducing carbon emissions and protecting areas at risk from extreme weather. After our November 28 meeting (Rebecca Phillips and I) with Sam Hattrup, Congressman Johnson’s Legislative Director, I am pessimistic of our congressman’s support of these items. He said that his office assumes that climate change is a global phenomenon, and that it is best addressed by maximizing natural gas production in the U.S. and shipping liquified natural gas (LNG) to foreign markets sot that it can replace coal, which is the biggest emissions source during electricity production. He said that these individual bills will only help at the margins and is not supportive of any of them.

CCL is struggling with the issue of permitting reform Currently; it takes 4-5 years for an infrastructure permit (for fossil fuel and renewable energy) to be approved. Permitting reform will accelerate that approval process. A problem is that some environmental groups and progressives in the Congress think that this will harm disadvantaged groups. Also, the Mountain Valley Pipeline is included n this reform bill. CCL advises members not to communicate to members of Congress about this issue. In the last few days, however, this language has been removed from the National Defense Authorization Act so it is moot. About 85% of permits are for renewable-energy projects.

CCL members in Ohio have been very active in opposing the addition of language in HB 507 in the Ohio House legislation to allow fracking in state lands. Furthermore, this language describes natural gas as “green” energy. The bill has passed both houses and now rests on the governor’s desk. Please contact his office to ask him to veto this bill or to strip away the language on drilling in state lands.

ReImagine Appalachia. I have been in communication with Natalia Rudiak at ReImagine who is responsible for promoting ReImagine in local governments, agencies dealing with economic development, and non-profits. She and I are working on a introduction of ReImagine to local organizations in Washington County in order to promote ideas about clean and efficient manufacturing and sustainable jobs.

On December 6 I participated in a webinar sponsored by Reimaigne about solar panels in the City of Athens. The webinar actually featured the mayor of Athens and the development director who described all their efforts to develop sources of renewable energy, promote conservation, and green spaces in the city. Athens has also imposed a carbon fee which is generating income for their renewable-energy projects.

Natalia Rudiak presented a webinar on faith-based initiatives in renewable energy projects. There are grants available from the U.S Department of Energy for energy-efficiency projects. I was wondering if we might apply to arrange for complete insulation of our sanctuary building??

I have informed Natalia about the Reimagine Marietta initiative which was covered in another agenda item of this meeting.

Injection Wells. The U.S. E.P.A. has acknowledged receipt of the legal documents from Earth Justice and other groups challenging the ODNR primacy for permitting injection wells. No further news about that issue. Also no further news on the law suit by oil/gas production people in Washington County against 12 brine-disposal companies.

George Banziger