**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting – January 15, 2023**

Citizens Climate Lobby.

HB 507. This bill passed the Ohio legislature and was signed by the governor. What is left for us as concerned citizens is to lobby for inclusion of public comment in specific siting of fracking wells in public lands (I sent a message about this issue on January 10 to GSC). Let me know if anyone wants me to resend that message.

Outlook for 118th Congress. It will be difficult dealing with the new House of Representatives.

ReImagine Appalachia.

Natalia Rudiak and I have arranged a Zoom meeting with the executive director of Southeast Ohio Port Authority for January 24 to discuss economic development along the lines of Reimagine Appalachia’s vision. We have also been in contact with the person at Buckeye Hills Council about the same issue and will be setting up a meeting with her and other colleagues at that agency (she seemed very receptive).

I attended the Strategic Summit held virtually by ReImagine Appalachia on January 10-11. It was well organized with panels, presentations from groups in the region and from federal officials. Much of the discussion and presentation concerned accessing funds from the Inflation Reduction Act, CHIPS Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other sources of funding. As result, I have some ideas about how to obtain funds for expanding the pollinator project (Audubon, NWF) and ecological restoration (IRA and BIL). I participated in a session on creating a community-wide vision and discussed with the presenter how to leverage the opposition to injection wells in our county toward building a new vision for economic development and job creation. Beaver County PA is a great model for how to reimagine a region in a participative and creative way (I showed a video from Beaver County at a FUUSM worship service last year).

Injection Wells. No news on the lawsuit filed with the US EPA challenging ODNR’s primacy re; injection wells.

I spoke to Bob Lane this week about the law suit being presented by him and other oil/gas producers against the disposal well companies in this area. This lawsuit is now in a court in Perry County, but there has been no court date set yet. Bob told me that he learned from his son, a petroleum engineer in Wyoming, that it costs three times as much for building an injection well in Wyoming than it does in Ohio; this is due to the stricter regulations in that state.

George Banziger