**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting – April 16, 2023**

Citizens Climate Lobby

We are preparing for the tabling at the Earth Day event in Marietta on April 22.

The Farm Bill is being discussed in Congress currently. It provides support for several renewable energy projects.

I sent two letters to Congressman Bill Johnson last month: one thanking him for his bipartisan work on the RAIL Act for safety reforms in the railway industry. The second was criticizing him for the falsehood in his newsletter about the Biden Administration going after gas stoves.

The Ohio legislature passed, and the governor signed HB 507 which permits hydraulic fracturing on Ohio public lands. The Governor has promised that there will be no surface impacts, but there is a loophole for exceptions. Randi Pokladnik and 15 others spoke against this plan at a meeting sponsored by ODNR in Columbus on April 10 (there was one pro-oil/gas person who commented). I sent a written statement in advance of that meeting. There is another public meeting on April 17 sponsored by the Oil & Gas Land Management agency in Columbus on April 17. There is a virtual option for this meeting.

SB 83 is being debated in the Ohio Senate currently. It requires instructors at state colleges & universities to present “both sides” of controversial issues, such as climate change. I sent a letter to Senator Frank Hoagland objecting to this bill.

Injection Wells

I have received no response from the President of the County Commissioners, Kevin Ritter, to my letter objecting to their proposal to lift the cap on fees for injection wells and return this revenue to ten counties in southeast Ohio. I have called Kevin Ritter on Thursday and asked for an update- no response from him as of this writing. I drafted a letter for Bob Lane to send to the county commissioners about their plan to lift the fee on injection wells; Bob said he wanted to add some thoughts of his own but has not yet done so. This week I spoke with Bob, the owner of several oil/gas production wells, who is suing several injection well companies. There is no news on the appeal of his lawsuit which was dismissed by a judge in Perry County assigned to the case. Bob told me that on March 21 he drove around the county with Nancy Taylor, a reporter from the Marietta Times, and showed her several injection well sites. She seemed very interested (and shocked) by what is going on. She said she will be writing a story on this topic in the Times, but it has not yet appeared. Bob said that in his frequent drives in the county for his business he has noticed many more brine tricks than in the past.

ReImagine Appalachia

Jesse Roush, Executive Director of the Southeast Ohio Port Authority, attended a Zoom meeting on January 31 with Amanda Woordrum, Natalia Rudiak, and me to discuss common ground on economic development. Amanda and Natalia skillfully crafted the discussion with him around his ideas for re-purposing two coal-fired power plants in Washington County He is now on board with RA on planning for this kind of activity.

On April 13 I attended a webinar sponsored by RA about solar panels on buildings owned by faith-based organizations. At the end of the presentations I gave a summary of our journey with our solar panels since 2016. There are federal funds available for projects to enhance insulation in buildings like ours. The webinar covered hiring installers who treat workers fairly, solar co-ops, and solar projects throughout central Appalachia.

George Banziger