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Governor Mike DeWine

Riffe Center, 30th Floor

77 South High St.

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

Re: Senator Brian Chavez

 I am writing to you about the appointment of Brian Chavez to the state senate seat of the 30th District.

 Mr. Chavez is apparently a good businessman, but he is not the best person to represent the 30th district in the Ohio Senate. I am a resident of Washington County which leads the state in the amount of brine waste (i.e., liquid material which contains harmful chemicals and most of which is radioactive) that is injected under its grounds. As chief executive officer of Deeprock Disposal, Mr. Chavez has personal and professional interest that is contrary to the views of many residents of Washington County and the 30th District. Public meetings that have been held in the past two years in our county have shown that across party lines and generations, people in Washington County want the injection of brine waste by Class II injection wells to be stopped or at least reduced in the county. The health and environmental risks of brine waste disposal has been identified by scientists and medical experts.“During the fracking process as high-pressured water and chemicals fracture the rock formations, naturally occurring radioactive elements like radium are also drawn out of the rocks in addition to oil and natural gas. As the oil and natural gas are extracted from the ground, the radioactive material primarily comes back as a component of brine, a byproduct of the extraction process. The brine is then hauled to treatment plants or injection wells, where it’s disposed of by being shot back into the ground. Exposure to radioactivity can lead to adverse health effects such as nausea, headaches, skin irritation, fatigue, and cancer.”

Mr. Chavez is in no position to represent people of the 30th District on this issue.

 The enclosed article from Cleveland.com has disclosed how Mr. Chavez’ company has avoided the clean-up costs of a serious leak of brine waste.

 Furthermore, two owners of production wells in Washington County have filed a lawsuit against Deeprock and other brine-disposal companies for the damage and destruction of their production wells by these disposal companies. This case is currently under appeal in an Athens court.

Sincerely yours,

George Banziger, Ph.D.

Encl: