

Senate Bill 250

Opponent Testimony – John Williams – McDonald, Ohio

Senate Judiciary Committee 11/14/2018

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to thank the Ohio Constitution for making it possible for me to speak here today. My name is John Williams; I live in McDonald, Ohio. My State rep is Glen Holmes and my State Senator is Sean O'Brien.

On Saint Patrick's Day (March) in 2010, Youngstown residents felt their feet move from the first earthquake to strike Youngstown in history. Less than 1 month later, there was another. And then another. The epicenters of all 3 were close to the Northstar 1 injection well. ODNR was questioned about this, and Tom Tomastik, the head of Underground Injection Control (injection wells) for ODNR, DENIED ANY CORRELLATION between the injection wells and the earthquakes. 4 more quakes happened in the following weeks, each increasing in magnitude. ODNR (Tom Tomastik) Denied, denied, denied, and denied any correlation.

On a cold mid November morning in 2010, 7 citizens in Youngstown blocked both entrances to the Northstar 1 injection well in Youngstown. This peaceful, non violent act of civil disobedience resulted in 7 arrests. Thankfully, it was picked up by the local papers. 7 people were arrested to bring to the public's attention, the irresponsible regulating from the state regulators, (ODNR). The public responded by demanding their city elected get to the bottom of it. A public forum was held at the Covelli center in Youngstown. Thousands of people from northeast Ohio showed up angry, afraid and demanding answers from ODNR and their elected officials. This is where the public learned firsthand that our local electeds are powerless over oil and gas. What the people got was an ODNR high school science slide show and even more denials.

The public is now outraged. Hundreds of calls flooded City hall, the media, the State house and the Governor. A few weeks later, as if it were a Christmas gift from Santa, The Governor himself ordered the shutdown of Northstar1.

Then a few weeks after that, on New Year's Eve, 12-31-2010, the 4.0 quake rocked Youngstown and much of the Mahoning Valley. There was damage to glass in buildings downtown, and damage to many homes in the valley. To this date, no one was held accountable for those damages.

QUESTION: What if the 7 brave citizens in Youngstown who placed their own bodies in front of toxic Frack Waste trucks entering the Northstar 1 injection well STAYED HOME ON THE COUCH INSTEAD. Would Northstar 1 have been shut down before causing more earthquakes of higher magnitudes? PROBABLY NOT! Who knows how many lives they may have saved? In the mean time...

Tom Tomastik now denies quakes in Oklahoma, a free man, not held accountable. YET, Ohio Senators Hoagland, Beagle, Huffman and Wilson would have me and 47 citizens arrested and jailed for felonies.

Senate Bill 250; NO, Thankyou.