

June 4, 2014

Public Comments to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

Submitted by:

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Hello everyone, thank you for this opportunity to speak on the record. My name is DAVID SCHONBERGER, and I am a resident of the City of Ann Arbor from Commissioner LaBarre's district. I am representing myself today as an individual member of the general public.

If I may, I would like to focus my comments on the previous meeting of the Board of Commissioners on May 21st, pertaining to the issue of oil and gas development. Briefly, I want to say thank you to the Board Members for passing a Resolution on the issue and sending a strong message to Lansing.

I am here today to ask the Board of Commissioners to go a step further and use the Resolution as a starting point and catalyst for more action. I propose that the Board **authorize and fund** a robust public education and media messaging campaign and **establish and fund** an Advisory Committee staffed with appropriate legal counsel, working in conjunction with the Scio Township Board of Trustees and the City of Ann Arbor which have recently passed similar Resolutions, to explore new strategies with an emphasis on formulating an innovative, perhaps unconventional, approach to protect the public health and environment of Washtenaw County.

Contrary to Commissioner Dan Smith's analysis, my research shows that there is a "gray area" in the State Laws relevant to oil and gas exploration, which opens the door to numerous creative ways to intervene and discourage that particular type of local economic development. Also, I do not share Commissioner Dan Smith's opinion that the Board's decision to pass a Resolution was motivated by nothing more than cynical pandering and political campaigning. I have more respect for the Board Members and for the electorate whom you serve than such a skeptical analysis would imply.

And, finally, to the primary corporate stakeholder, this citizen action is a statement about documented violations of State Law, reckless irresponsibility, intentional corporate misconduct, and gross negligence at facilities located in Michigan: Citation – *West Bay Exploration Co. v. AIG, et. al.*, 1990, U.S. Federal Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit.

Therefore, in conclusion, I submit that NIMBY is particularly justified in this matter. The risks of proposed activities in Washtenaw County vastly exceed any and all potential benefits.

Thank you.