

August 11, 2023

Dear Marc Fisher and EPA colleagues,

I appreciate that the Biden administration is taking climate change seriously and taking a variety of steps to try and mitigate it.

I am writing to express my concern about the Wabash Valley Resources / Wabash Carbon Services proposed carbon dioxide sequestration project in Vigo County, IN.

I feel that the full range of environmental impacts of this project have not been adequately researched, specifically regarding water, air, and soil. The health and safety of the communities near and above the pipelines and the pore space could be at risk (long and short term), as could the future of the crops and farm businesses that have thrived there for generations. Monitoring a well for 12 years is not enough.

What safeguards are in place if people and farmland are exposed to toxins?

Does Wabash Valley Resources have to show a plan in place for such an instance, and show that they have sufficient funds, to restore the land and soil and the health of the people in that community?

What if Wabash Valley Resources goes bankrupt after such a leak? Would the area then become a SuperFund site, and the health of the people and the land become the responsibility of the federal government? What is the plan to reimburse farmers and homeowners for their loss in this kind of scenario?

What safeguards exist in the federal government to protect people who live in these areas in the case of a leak or other accident?

Wabash Valley Resources took a backdoor route to putting their carbon sequestration project in this area; rather than initially consulting with local residents, including the farm owners on whose land the project would sit, they instead worked with a small group of state legislators and had a bill passed in favor of their project, before most people in the area were aware of it.

I believe this is the wrong way to bring such an impactful and new kind of project into a community, and should not be repeated elsewhere in the country as carbon sequestration becomes more widespread as one solution to climate change. The law should also be repealed in Indiana.

Farm and land owners on/in whose property this proposed project would be situated should be able to negotiate with Wabash Valley Resources for an agreed-on amount of financial

compensation, and as to whether or not the farm and land owners want such a project on their property at all.

It is wrong for a corporation to make deals with the state government, deals which tell land and farm owners what will happen to their land and how much they will (or won't) be paid for that incursion.

Similarly, labor unions and other labor groups and workers should be able to negotiate with Wabash Valley Resources for adequate pay on that work site and adequate health coverage in the case of any accidents, outside of any new state law that Indiana created hand in hand with that corporation.

Wabash Valley Resources corporation stands to make a large amount of money from this project, funded in large part by federal grants. This money should be used to fully ensure health and safety now and in the future for the people in this impacted community, and should also be used to fairly and adequately compensate farmers and landowners whose property is being compromised by this proposed project.

If this proposed project by Wabash Valley Resources can't be done fairly and safely, with plenty of research and community input, it shouldn't be done at all.

Sincerely,
Jessie Lenderman
Vigo County property owner
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