



## SUSTAINABLE MEDINA COUNTY

We Protect Medina County's Environment to Ensure a Healthy Ecosystem for Today's Residents and Future Generations

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### RE: SUSTAINABLE MEDINA COUNTY LAUNCHES SIGNATURE-GATHERING CAMPAIGN FOR MEDINA COUNTY CHARTER INITIATIVE

Members of Sustainable Medina County have launched their signature-gathering campaign to again try to get a County Charter on the ballot this November. Look for Sustainable Medina County group members at the polling locations on primary day, this Tuesday, March 15 to sign a petition.

Medina County is slated along with many other Ohio counties to be in the direct path of the Nexus Pipeline project and the Wadsworth Compressor Station. Besides the obvious risks of explosions and property value reductions, at a recent EPA public hearing, residents heard from experts about the toxins that they and their families will be exposed to due to "normal" operations and emissions. Some of the chemicals that will be vented into Medina County air include benzene, formaldehyde, toluene, sulfuric oxide, nitrous oxide, radon and carbon monoxide. "Many of these are carcinogens and the amounts emitted will be above current EPA acceptable limits, yet the EPA appears inclined to grant a permit to poison the public. This charter will empower the people of our county to say 'no' to NEXUS and its threats to the health and safety of our families and the environment," commented Kathie Jones, conveyor of Sustainable Medina County. "We do not want Wadsworth to be Ohio's next cancer cluster."

It is for these reasons that Sustainable Medina County is working to gather signatures from Medina County residents to give them a voice in whether this is a project that they are willing to expose their families and neighborhoods to and one that is in the best interest of Medina County.

"We tried to work through our elected representatives and regulatory agencies, like the EPA and FERC, but we quickly realized that they were all more interested in protecting the pipeline company than the health and safety of Medina County residents," commented Jones. "In a democracy, the people have the inalienable right to govern the communities where they live. The County Charter is doing just that, giving the people who live in Medina County a say in the decisions that will directly affect them and the community."

Last year, the group collected over 5,000 signatures and submitted the ballot initiative to the Medina County Board of Elections, but a few residents filed a protest, which caused Secretary of State Jon Husted to reject the petitions. Husted wanted to reject the petitions on the grounds that the Charter unconstitutionally interfered with the State's authority to regulate oil and gas operations. The Ohio Supreme Court ruled that Husted lacked authority to invalidate the petitions on those grounds, but the Supreme Court did keep the initiative off the ballot due to a defect in the charter. The charter language

has been revised to satisfy the court's requirements. The charter does not change how the county government currently functions.

Sustainable Medina County emphasizes that not only will the County Charter Initiative be part of their move against the NEXUS compressor station, but also a larger campaign to stop the NEXUS pipeline. "The NEXUS pipeline is not a means for Ohio to become 'energy independent' as NEXUS claims, but it is an international gas exporting scheme which will ship gas through to Canada to overseas destinations", commented attorney Terry Lodge.

There is a need for a County Charter in Medina County because, as the residents have been repeatedly told by their Commissioners and other elected officials, "their hands are tied" and they cannot protect the residents from any harms that may be caused by the 36" (1440 psi) high pressure NEXUS natural gas pipeline, which will be moving gas at more than 800 miles per hour, and the NEXUS pipeline compressor station.

The Medina County Charter will create a home rule government for the citizens of Medina County. A government where the people have a say and it also creates a Community Bill of Rights for all residents in the county. The Bill of Rights is intended to protect Medina County from new pipelines and compressor stations and to secure our rights to clean air, water and soil. Residents should not have to sacrifice unconsenting children and families to contaminated air and water from the transportation of gas. Members of Sustainable Medina County feel that creating new health hazards to replace the old is unethical when clean, safe, renewable forms of energy exist. "The time is now to turn to job-creating alternative energy sources and industrial conservation for a stable and renewable economy for Medina County," concluded Jones.

For more information visit: <http://sustainablemedinacounty.org>

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