

Date May 2, 2025
The Honorable Mike Bohacek
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Marshall County Regional Sewer Board

Dear Senator Mike Bohacek,

These days it's hard to find a politician with good morals and values and truly serves the community. You have a great reputation for service to the community and we could use your help.

We currently have a regional sewer board, Marshall County Regional Sewer Board, that has no oversight and reports to no one. The process in which the sewer board is formed and approved by IDEM is flawed in several ways: 1) the process in which the affected residents are notified of the formation of the board does not insure an appropriate number of residents are notified; 2) the time frame to respond with any objections is not appropriate due to inadequate notification of the affected residents; 3) there is no governing body or oversight to insure the sewer board acts in a financially responsible manner to the residents, and they are the only and final decision.

Most of the affected residents were unaware of the proposed sewer board formation due to the very limited legal notification requirement, and therefore unable to object in the time frame allowed by IDEM. And most residents were also unaware of the impending sewer system until they got what most consider a threatening letter informing them of the sewer system and demanding easement rights. We also feel the letter was very misleading in certain areas.

Despite the fact very few septic systems need repair or replacement, and the growing number of residents expressing their concern to the board about their inability to pay these costs and fees, the sewer board continues to pursue the design of the sewer system with an estimated project cost of \$22m as of 2yrs ago, and depending on funding this equates to an estimated service fee of \$100-\$200 per month, on top of the many thousands of dollars for the residents to abandon their current septic systems and connect to the new sewer system. And we are expected to pay the monthly service fee at the start of construction which is estimated to be about 2 years before we receive service. Most of us just can't afford these costs and fees.

We need help to revise the way IDEM approves the formation of and oversight of regional sewer boards. We also need help with pressure on our current sewer board and local officials to consider the true need for the sewer and the financial impact on the residents. We also need oversight on our sewer board to help stop unreasonable financial burdens on the residents. There are already residents selling their homes because of these added expenses to their already stretched budgets.

We would appreciate any time and help in this very important matter to us. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue any further.

Respectfully submitted,