

Media Advisory:
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LOCAL LEADERS ANNOUNCE COALITION OPPOSING ISSUE 3
Denounce tactics of out-of-state group selling false hope

Local business, labor and community leaders announce the formation of Neighbors for Responsible Government, a coalition opposed to Issue 3, the proposed so-called "community bill of rights" charter amendment, on the city of Waterville's ballot this November. Issue 3 was drafted by a group out of Pennsylvania that travels across the country trying to shut down companies and development. In Waterville, they are selling false hope to those who oppose the NEXUS pipeline, in order to try to impose their broad anti-development agenda on our community. While Issue 3 cannot stop the NEXUS pipeline, which is governed by federal and state law, what it will do is take away property rights, threaten local development, drive away jobs, outlaw modern farming practices, threaten drastic water rate increases, and subject the city, local companies, developers and citizens to lawsuits.

Some of the local leaders who have formed Neighbors for Responsible Government and are urging citizens to vote NO on Issue 3 include:

Waterville Economic Development Corporation
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Toledo Regional Association of Realtors
Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Mechanics Local 50

Neighbors for Responsible Government outlines some of their concerns about Issue 3:

"The name 'community bill of rights' is deceiving," said local business leader Bill Anderson.

"When those supporting the proposed charter amendment described it to me, it sounded like a good idea. But when I actually read the language, I realized the measure is poorly written, and so overly broad that it could take control over our own property-keeping us from trimming our trees, fertilizing and grooming our lawns, and tending to our property as we see fit."

"Issue 3 subjects all local companies and developers to the threat of costly and time-consuming lawsuits," said Waterville Economic Development Corporation board member Phyllis Hyder.

"What company would want to invest in our city when they could be slapped with a lawsuit as soon as they break ground or operate? The current and planned development at Waterville Landing, for example, could violate the measure and could be stalled or shut down completely if this dangerous measure passes. We can't be fooled by the false hope an out-of-state group is selling. Issue 3 cannot stop the NEXUS pipeline or the compressor station which are governed by state and federal law. But what Issue 3 will do is hurt local Waterville companies and families."

"We've been told that Issue 3 was drafted by Waterville residents, but a little research online reveals that it was actually drafted by a group of anti-development activists out of Pennsylvania that are pushing this measure and their agenda across the county. The Pennsylvania author of the proposed measure was quoted in Reuters as saying 'if a town goes bankrupt trying to defend one of our ordinances, well, perhaps that's exactly what is needed to trigger a national movement.' Broadview Heights, Ohio passed a similar measure, was sued, and lost. Let's learn from their

experience and not make the same mistake for our community," said local business leader Dave Boothe.

Like those supporting the charter amendment, many of the members of the coalition are concerned about pipelines and compressor stations in and near our community, and want our concerns addressed. Issue 3, the proposed "community bill of rights" charter amendment, however, is not the solution. Out-of-state activists are attempting to take advantage of our concern over NEXUS, and pull a bait and switch on our community. The "bait" is the hope that Issue 3 can stop the NEXUS pipeline, and the "switch" is that Issue 3 cannot fulfill that hope and instead will impose a radical anti-development agenda on our city that will subject the city, its companies, and residents to lawsuits and could drive development away and our utility rates even higher. The coalition urges Waterville voters to reject this out-of-state, overly-broad measure and instead come together as a community to thoughtfully discuss the issues that concern us and determine real solutions for our community.

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