

November 20, 2024

My name is Mary Krupa, and I live on the South side and am with SOBE Concerned Citizens. I am here to ask City Council to renew the expiring moratorium on pyrolysis for one more year. This will ensure that the City has more time needed to research this complicated science so that the public health and well-being are protected.

Due to the proposed SOBE Energy pyrolysis unit being located next to some of our most vulnerable communities there are serious environmental justice concerns. These communities are typically saddled with dirty, polluting, toxic infrastructure and the dangerous health impacts they cause such as asthma, cancer, heart disease and low birthweight babies.

Even the US EPA raised environmental justice concerns in a two-page letter to the Ohio EPA about this proposed process. These concerns appear to have been ignored since the Ohio EPA went ahead and issued a permit-to-install and operate to SOBE.

I am not against SOBE providing steam heat and cooling to downtown Youngstown in the current manner which is natural gas driven. However, the information SOBE presented about its new process has not been in-depth. I would like to see a forum with SOBE where a panel of carefully-vetted scientists and experts in the field could ask questions clarifying this process and determining if hazardous air pollutants and hazardous waste are released and what the possibilities of fire and explosion are. These panel members would have to be independent, that is, no connection to the oil and gas industry nor the plastics industry nor the crypto currency industry.

We need to balance the needs of many citizens against the needs of one company making a profit at health's expense. Youngstown should not be an experiment for a potentially dangerous technology.

And last, but very important, on zoning rules alone, there is no question that this technology cannot be used in this location.

I ask that you as City Council renew this moratorium.

Thank you for your attention and support and positive actions over the last few years regarding this matter.