

Dear Editor,

After turning in Big Ox for one of their violations, I was put on the Department of Natural Resources committee whose job was writing regulations for agricultural digesters; there were none at that point. Re: Sunday's Gazette article "Iowa bills encourage digesters to convert farm waste."

My first contribution to the committee was mentioning that even though the draft regulations said that no hazardous waste was to be allowed in these ag digesters, hog confinement waste fit Iowa's definition of hazardous waste to a "T". The confinement waste gasses, particulates, and antibiotic resistant organisms can make people sick, and can kill them.

I didn't hear anything from the committee after that and figured I was dropped from the committee for mentioning that observation. I found out subsequently that I wasn't dropped from the committee, but rather the Iowa Legislature told the DNR they couldn't regulate agricultural digesters, and the committee was disbanded.

Using taxpayer money to subsidize an iffy and complicated technology (there are many abandoned ag digesters in the Midwest) just to provide another pseudo Band-Aid to the human health and environment-harming hog confinement industry is not what we pay our taxes for. These ag digesters have no regulations. The committee was disbanded.

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