

Neice, Jessica

NOV 27 2023

**From:** Save the Wabash H2O <savethewabashh20@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 11:06 PM  
**Cc:** isa.foltz@vigocounty.in.gov; mike.morris@vigocounty.in.gov; **CITY CLERK**  
 chris.switzer@vigocounty.in.gov; Tammy.York-Allen@vigocounty.in.gov;  
 mark.clinkenbeard@vigocounty.in.gov; Azar, George; DeBaun, Curtis; Boland, Tammy;  
 Auler, Amy; Elliott, Earl; Nation, Todd; Garrison, Neil; Loudermilk, Cheryl; Crossen, Martha;  
 Edwards, Michelle; outside email  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL -LEAP Water Main - - Water & Tax-funding Rights  
**Attachments:** Res 2023-27 LEAP.pdf; Notice to Public Officials - Latest News.pdf

**\*\*External Email. - Think Before You Click\*\*** --  
*Help Desk*

To Mayor Bennett, Terre Haute City Council, and Vigo County Commissioners:

We are reaching out concerning Indiana's LEAP water pipeline project, and its impacts to the residents in your community.

In an effort to protect your constituents property rights and tax dollars, we respectfully request that you review the attached document detailing our concerns for the LEAP Industrial Park and its subsequent water pipeline project. We hope that it empowers you to take the next steps, joining **White County, Monticello, Battleground, Lafayette, West Lafayette, Shadeland, Attica, Covington, Fountain County, and Tippecanoe County**. We have also attached the Monticello City Council Resolution Opposing the Leap Pipeline Water Diversion Project for your reference.

We would be happy to have a discussion with you, should this be of assistance.

With respect,  
 Carly Sheets & Rose Herman

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 27**

**MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING  
THE LEAP PIPELINE WATER DIVERSION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (the “*IEDC*”) has planned a “LEAP (Limitless Exploration/Advanced Pace) Innovation District” located on more than 9,000 acres in Boone County without ensuring sufficient water resources were available for the businesses and industries to be recruited for locating in the Leap Innovation District; and,

WHEREAS, the IEDC has commenced construction planning of a pipeline to divert as much as 100 million gallons of water per day from aquifers connected to the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County to the LEAP Innovation District; and

WHEREAS, due to the proposed diversion of such large amounts of water through the pipeline, there are potential negative and unconsidered consequences for Monticello residents depending upon aquifers connected to the Wabash River, including the Teays Valley underground aquifer, for their primary source of water; and,

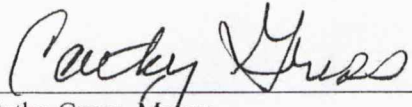
WHEREAS, though on November 13, 2023, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb directed the Indiana Finance Authority to oversee the completion and validation of a water supply study being completed for the Leap Project, further independent third-party studies, public hearings, and legislation from the Indiana General Assembly addressing these issues must take place prior to any further Leap Project planning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Monticello City Council expresses its firm opposition to the construction of the pipeline and the diversion of water from the Wabash River aquifer in Tippecanoe County to the LEAP Innovation District in Boone County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to all Indiana General Assembly members representing any part of White County, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, the Indiana Finance Authority, the Indiana Secretary of Commerce, and Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb.

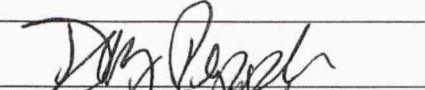

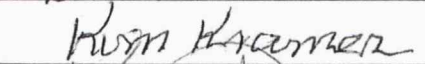
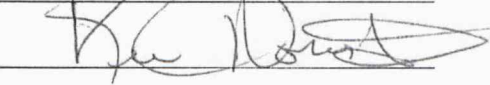
APPROVED AND RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Monticello,  
Indiana, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Attest:   
James D. Mann, Clerk-Treasurer

  
Cathy Gross, Mayor

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NAYS

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As a concerned neighbor, I am writing to inform you of actions which have been taken that directly affect you **and your constituents**:

Quasi government organization - Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), sister-company Indiana Finance Authority (IFA), as well as LEAP project managers are moving forward with plans to install dual 48-inch diameter watermain/pipelines to remove up to **100 million gallons per day** of potable groundwater from the Wabash River Valley aquifer (Teays or Wabash Alluvial aquifer). These dual pipelines, to span 36+ miles each, will serve 9,000+ acres of recently purchased farmland, annexed and rezoned to industrial in Lebanon - - NEVER TO RETURN the water to the source aquifer.<sup>1</sup> Test wells installed in Tippecanoe County (two wells pumping 2MGD each) **have already contaminated the water** in the area with **hydrogen sulfite and displaced gravel, sand and grit**, while also **reducing water pressure**<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, as the quantity of pumping begins to grow, there is a very real concern for **sinkholes and aquifer depletion**. *Please note, more testing wells have already been installed.* The "preliminary results" only speak to water quantity impacts and not accurate quality impacts. They also do not speak of long-term effects, impacts to local dependent farmers, aquifer recharge rate, seasons of drought or development growth along the aquifer.

Matt Gentry, the Mayor of the Lebanon, epicenter of the LEAP industrial park, previously served on Indiana's water task force. He claims "Water is a State's resource, and we have to make a determination as a State of how we use it appropriately, and **every day water flows by Lafayette and West Lafayette that they are not using, and it goes to Illinois, so I would rather Indiana used it and not Illinois.**"<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, should the water source dry up, IEDC/LEAP's plan is to **open dams upstream**. Governor Holcomb, the IEDC and Mayor Gentry desire to take potable water from dependent communities, in order to attract businesses to the controversial megasite industrial park.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE: As a result of this project, water-rights in Indiana are being crafted, and the outcome will affect your property and the properties of each of your constituents. The legislature is considering charging large water users (power companies, industrial processing, public supply and agriculture) to fund additional monitoring wells; as a result, your water rates and constituents' bills would be expected to rise. **In addition, should the precedent of this aquifer plundering move forward, your community's rights to their aquifer and foundational integrity will be at stake.** Finally, every community being starved of the taxpayer dollars, currently pouring into Lebanon, has a dog in this fight. The allocated pipeline and property acquisition funds [estimated at \$2 billion] would better serve Hoosiers by redeveloping Indiana's depleting watersheds (with wetlands and forests), reimagining aging industrial zones, and consequently stimulating the economy statewide.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://secure.in.gov/apps/iedc/transparencyportal/viewtaxgrantloancontract/5ac468f49792ed11aad1001dd806af48>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RslZCQ61YAc> (or search LEAP Project Concerned Citizens Meeting on the "We the People Indiana Revival" Youtube channel, this is the most recent public forum)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wishtv.com/news/i-team-8/leaders-of-wabash-river-city-question-who-owns-indianas-water/>

Your **Oath of Office** is to uphold the **Constitution of the United States** and **Constitution of your State**. These documents **protect** the **human rights derived from property**. The only limitation to an individual's rights are the equal rights of others; meaning, one cannot impact a property owner's access to groundwater. The Pipeline project infringes upon the rights of others, by reducing the quantity and quality of their neighbor's groundwater and foundational integrity, and is therefore, unconstitutional. Furthermore, the State's public policy is to conserve and protect the groundwater resources for the most beneficial use. The "most beneficial use" is not to attract a semiconductor plant to a County where water and electric needs cannot be sustained, when other Counties could sustain it. Nor does the "most beneficial use" require the installation of a 36+ mile long pipeline, to steal millions of gallons of water from a dependent aquifer. These actions represent the government's callous disregard of the local farmers whose lives depend upon their costly irrigation investments, and to the residents who fear sinkholes, as well as loss to their property's value.

Finally, why is an unequal amount of taxpayer dollars going to Lebanon? Why not distribute evenly? Why not reserve money for other communities by picking a sustainable location for the semiconductor plant (saving the cost of land acquisition, water mains, booster stations, etc.). Why not reimagine/redevelop existing vacant and/or aging industrial land to preserve Indiana's food (agriculture) and water, while revitalizing our statewide industrial zones? Why not use taxpayer dollars to correct Indiana's **growing** watershed depletion crises, with responsible redevelopment and intentional wetland & forest installation within the watershed – instead of adding to the embarrassment? Why not return the plundered aquifer water to the original source since money appears to be no limit? **The Governor, IEDC, and IFA are not being good stewards of your constituents' tax dollars, or our food and water. Secretary of Commerce, David Rosenberg, released a statement regarding the project's move from IEDC to IFA, that it was to launch the project "into the execution phase...helps keep Indiana's foot on the gas..."**

It is your duty to protect your constituents **today**, knowing this project impacts the rights to the property's groundwater and sets a precedent for your property tomorrow. It also sets a precedent for the self-proclaimed "Roman Empire": the IEDC, and what the State will support them doing with OUR tax dollars.

Your stance will be your legacy.

Please join your neighbors to fight this project. Take a stand with **White County, Monticello, Battleground, Lafayette, West Lafayette, Shadeland, Attica, Tippecanoe County, Covington, and Fountain County** by publically denouncing groundwater diversion, this IEDC/LEAP project and their deplorable actions with taxpayer dollars.

How you can help:

1. Personally, sign the petition and share with your network. (Link below)

Change.org "Stop the LEAP Pipeline: Protect Our Aquifer, Preserve Our Water!"  
[Petition · Stop the LEAP Pipeline: Protect Our Aquifer, Preserve Our Water! · Change.org](#)

2. Personally, notify your State Senator and Representatives, to let them know you are opposed to the LEAP water pipeline project.
3. Publicly join the communities listed above and oppose groundwater diversion, and this project. (Example resolution provided in the email.)

As quoted previously, Mayor Gentry stated "...we have to make a determination **AS A STATE** of how we use it appropriately." It is imperative that YOU, our elected officials, **unite**, and speak LOUDER as "State" than the Governor and Mayor Gentry. **As representatives of the people**, you have been charged with the **duty to preserve the rights of your constituents**. Uphold your Oath of Office and protect your community from this groundwater diversion.

Respectfully,  
Carly Sheets, PE, PTOE - - 765-491-8797  
Rose Herman - - 406-868-2383

*We have spoken with multiple communities and would be happy to come speak with you and answer any questions that we can. Our information is based on firsthand accounts, 17 years of civil engineering experience, combined with 4 years of human rights research.*