

[External Email] Monday commentary

From John Hartsough
To Cheryl Ross
Date Fri, Jul 31, 2026, 4:26 PM
☐ Your work is just beginning.docx

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AUG 03 2026

Shelly Bauser
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Good Afternoon Cheryl,

Only recently did I become aware that you are the commissioner representing the district I live in. I guess that says how much I typically don't pay attention to the county government.

I am attaching information that I want you to have before Monday Morning. I sent the attachment to Shelly as well, so perhaps you will receive a redundant copy..

I truly hope we can meet sometime and discuss these CCS matters. I have been disappointed that from early on it was presented as a "for" or "opposed" matter. As you will read, for me it should have begun as a risk assessment study of all the possible scenarios created by the Poet Project.

I hope this attachment can be added to the commissioner web page where all the supportive and oppositional letters are made available to the public. None of my other written communications with you appears there,

I will not read this paper Monday in the meeting, but will attempt to summarize it in about 3 minutes. Shelly said the meeting can only last an hour.

The paper presents why you should return the ordinance to the zoning and planning department. The conclusion of my studies about CCS would propose that Wabash County ought to take the same, or similar position as Macon County, Illinois. That is, not having any local ordinances controlling CCS.

Finally, I have learned, I think correctly, that the County Council has no authority in funding your defense in the case you caused with Poet. I was led to believe that you commissioners will control that funding. I don't think that county money should be used for your defense. Could you clarify this funding situation for me.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence,
John Hartsough

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Becky Bowman
Cheryl Ross
Sun, Aug 2, 2026, 1:20 PM

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AUG 03 2026

Jelly Bacon
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Cheryl, With so many still unknowns on this issue, I don't see how it should even be considered. With water potentially being in short supply in the future, why risk putting something in the ground that could jeopardize our supply of clean usable water. I'm also not fond of the thought that it could erupt & do extensive damage. Granted I don't know the whole situation, but just wanted you to know we don't need to add another problem to our ever changing world. Thank you, keep Wabash County land safe,
Becky (Corn) Bowman

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Nancy Jo Hammel

Cheryl Ross

Sun, Aug 2, 2026, 4:21 PM

AUG 03 2026

Shelly Baucor
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Just wanted to request a yes vote from you on the CCS ordinance that is before the county council!! So appreciate you as a watch dog for these things which are not good for our community!!

Thanks for your service to us!!

Nancy Jo Hammel

Sent from my iPhone

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Vicki Niccum
Cheryl Ross
Sun, Aug 2, 2026, 4:54 PM

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AUG 03 2026

Shelly Bauser
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Sent from my iPhone

Ms Cross, Please vote Yes for the
CCS Ordinance. I live 2 miles away!

I am very concerned for our water,

Our wells, our ground, & future generations and what this could
do in harming under ground where they say they will store it & to our
Community & County!

Thank you for all your hard work and putting the people first!

Sincerely,

Vicki Niccum

1873E-700N

North Manchester

In 46962

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[External Email] CCS

Cathy Montel
Cheryl Ross
Sun, Aug 2, 2026, 9:34 PM

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AUG 03 2026

Jelly Bouc
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Please continue stand up for Wabash county regarding the CCS. We do not want or need this in our community. Our health and safety is much more important.

Thank you!

Cathy Montel

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[External Email] Carbon capture vote

chris kugler
Cheryl Ross
Tue, Jul 21, 2026, 12:38 PM

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AUG 03 2026

Shelly Baueco
WABASH CO AUDITOR

I'm asking you to please support the carbon capture sequestration bill on aug 3. Please protect us

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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[External Email] CCS Ordinance

Abby Holman

Cheryl Ross

Tue, Jul 21, 2026, 12:52 PM

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AUG 03 2026

Jelly Raucos
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Hello,

I am writing to request that you vote yes on the CCS ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration and your work in our county!

Abby Holman

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[External Email] Please use this revised, safer, version of my 8/3/26 letter

From: Josh Leffel [mailto:jleffel@wabashcountypark.com]
To: Cheryl Ross [mailto:cheryl.ross@wabashcountypark.com]
Date: Tue, Jul 21, 2026, 9:01PM

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AUG 03 2026

Shelly Bauser
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Good morning Wabash County Board of Commissioners,

My name is Josh Leffel. I reside at 1412 east 900 north, North Manchester IN.

I was not able to attend this morning due to having to take one of our sons to Riley Children's hospital this morning, so I wanted to take the time to write down my thoughts and send them to you.

I'm just going to start right off by stating that I firmly believe that it is your moral obligation, to protect the citizens of Wabash county to the best of your ability,

I think it is your duty as commissioners, to whole heartedly, listen to their opinions and concerns on issues that come up in Wabash County. It is your responsibility to make good decisions based off of the feedback your constituents provide you with.

Let me give you a glimpse of what life has been like for the last couple of years for our family, as we have lived with the looming threat of this CCS project, that these two greed fueled companies are proposing.

Alot of you know why I got involved in this mess. I'm sorry you have had to hear this over and over, but I want those that have not heard it, to be able to.

Imagine being blessed with the gift of a brand new home, custom built for your two sons who suffer from Duchennes Muscular Dystrophy, a disease that has them confined to wheelchairs. That gift, that blessing, means more than words can express. It's a life changing situation for our whole family!

Land at that time was hard to find, but our family owned some, north east of our local POET Biorefining facility, which was fine with us, because we had not heard anything bad about POET for the most part. So, we agreed, this would be the location for our sons' new, custom built, fully handicap accessible home.

Fast forward s couple years and that dream becomes a reality as our children got to say goodbye to their old, restrictive, non handicap accessible home, and move into their new, custom built, just for them, fully handicap accessible one.

Our boys no longer needed our help to navigate their own home. For the very first time since losing their ability to walk and being placed in wheelchairs, they were able to go wherever they wanted, in their own house, all by themselves! They are mobile, they are free, they are happy and they are safe.

They were safe for about the first four years. That's when life at our property changed, and not in a good way.

I came home from work one day and noticed flags along our road. I noticed little boxes off to the side of the road in the ditch. No big deal I thought, probably running internet or something. Then, later I heard it. Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

I made my way down to see an odd looking vehicle making a lot of noise, by the time I got there, they were pretty well past our property. So I made my way to a neighbors house to see what was going on, and my oh my, did I get the education of a lifetime.

I found out, that POET had hired a seismic testing crew to perform seismic testing on several county roads, including the one that I own to the center of. They performed these tests without my knowledge or my consent. I pay taxes on the land under that road, to the center of that road, and they tested it. In my opinion, I feel like they trespassed on me.

Then he told me WHY, they were doing this. They were gathering data to help them obtain a permit so that they, and their partner, VAULT 44.01, could carry out a CCS operation across the field from our home.

A quick look into CCS led me down a rabbit hole that was very scary. There were so many risks associated with this project, and our home was now right in the crosshairs! What do we do? Do we just sit here and let the neighbors try to fight it? Do we let the county deal with it and hope they can win without any outside help? Do we sell our land and run away and keep our mouths shut to the new owners, or, do we stay and earn our new home, by fighting back against this project?

Your life, when being faced with these projects almost comes to a standstill. There's so many questions you have to start asking yourself. Do I upgrade this on our home or will it be a waste of time? Do I put in a bunch of landscaping, or will it not matter? Should I plant trees, or will I even be able to watch them grow?

My wife and I had to make the decision, that if this project is allowed to proceed, we cannot in good conscience, stay here with our family, knowing the very real risks associated with this project. We certainly do not want to have to modify our deed to reflect the fact that supercritical CO2 is on our property, and we dang sure don't want to deal with having eminent domain used against our property to

forcefully integrate us into a project we do not want to be a part of!

Well, I think you all know which decision we decided to make. We are not leaving...not without putting up one heck of an effort to stop this project first.

So, a phone call is made to POET. The GM and myself have a talk, which wasn't that bad, and he agreed to take my contact info and add me to a list, so that when other meetings came up regarding CCS, I could at least be a part of the process, even if I was against it.

But the invites never came. My phone calls never happened. I was not kept in the loop from POET, at all. However, I did find out later, that I was added to a list. POET did keep their word on that, as I found out that our brand new home, built just for my boys, was placed on POET's AOR list or area of review, and sent in to the EPA in 2024!

That list contains our home and 117 other properties, that by definition of AOR, stand the highest probability of being impacted the heaviest, from either the CO2 plume, or pressure front associated with it! The best part, they NEVER told us about it, and had every chance to do it, BEFORE we ever built our home!

These two companies tell us they "need" to inject CO2 into the ground for 12 years, in order to be able to produce low carbon or ZERO carbon fuel..

That is a bold faced lie, and I know it is because POET has admitted it, not only on their very own website, but in several interviews and nearly every Sunday on NASCAR. Yes, NASCAR. POET supplies all the fuel, ZERO CARBON FUEL, for the race cars on the NASCAR circuit. Not only that, but they also produce ZERO CARBON FUEL on a commercial scale as well.

You know what technique they are NOT having to use right now, to produce that CO2? Carbon Capture Sequestration! That's right!

Actually they use totally regenerative processes, including, but not limited to, the Closed Carbon Cycle the North Manchester facility uses, as well as taking credit for low carbon methods their farming customers utilize, to obtain their goals. How do I know this? Again, as previously stated, it's all readily available, all over their very own website, as well as in several interviews they have given with several news outlets.

It's probably not something I would be doing, if I were trying to push a scam like CCS onto an American public that doesn't want it.....butPOET just operates, well, differently, I guess.

I'm sure there are members of the corn growers association, or economic development leaders, or ethanol producers association, or possibly the Farm Bureau, that will come up here this morning and tell you otherwise, and if they do, they are lying to you, because they too, in my opinion, will do anything to get their hands on that 45Q!

In my opinion, they simply want to inject this CO₂ into the ground for 12 years, in order to be able to get filthy rich from the 45Q tax credits that they will be paid with, that are only valid for, you guessed it, 12 years. This injected CO₂ will have the opportunity to migrate wherever it wants to, throughout the AOR, essentially turning our properties into their CO₂ wasteland.

We get the risks, they get the rewards! Rewards worth about \$25,250,000 extra, every year, just from 45Q alone, that does not take in account for the money they will make off the 45Z credits!

Fighting back against these projects in order to keep your land, your water, your home, your family, your neighbors and community, safe, from a project like this, takes a lot out of you. There are so many meetings to attend. You must work tirelessly in order to unite your community, there are so many phone calls and constant research being done. There are zoom calls, there's public events, the list goes on and on.

All of this takes time away from your family. Precious time that you will NEVER get back! As a father, I do this because it's the right thing to do! My kids however, start to wonder if I've picked everyone else over them. My wife, she feels the same way a lot of times. To say this has stressed our marriage would be an understatement. At times, it has ripped it apart! All of these things are happening all the time, because we are trying so hard to keep our lives safe from CCS.

These companies pursuing these projects, RELY HEAVILY on communities getting worn down from fighting. They rely on neighbors starting to hate neighbors. They get joy out of hearing people like me talk about the stress of their project, ripping relationships apart. Everytime they hear stories like these, or see it happening with their own eyes, THEY SEE DOLLAR SIGNS. It's a sick, twisted, depraved mindset to have, but divide and conquer is the technique they depend on the most.

We want to live in peace. We want to know we are safe. We want to know that our water will remain clean and drinkable. They tell us they will install an RO system to take care of the CO₂ if it leaks into our water.

However, that's been determined to be a lie, because we checked. RO systems are not used to treat CO₂, but what would VAULT know about that? They have never completed a CCS project much less had to deal with the ramifications of one!

We would be their guinea pigs if they proceed with this project. That's not fair to my family and it's not fair to anyone else residing in Wabash county. Obviously I could go on and on about my disdain for this project and I've left ALOT out of this.

I'm asking you as a citizen of Wabash county, as a tax payer, as a husband to a wife who has put up with so much unfair stress due to my involvement with trying to push back against this project, and a father of two disabled kids who are depending on me, to keep them and their new home safe from this greedy project, please find it in your hearts to do everything within your power to help us.

Thank you for everything you have all done for this community up to this point. I for one have been so proud to be able to tell other communities how lucky we are, to have the tremendous board of commissioners we have!

You listen to us. You honestly seem to care. Your moral compasses have not been broken by greed or bribes. Show us all one more time that all of that is still true, by standing up for us today. Vote YES on this CCS ordinance, that so many tremendous individuals have spent so much time creating.

God Bless all of you, that have been involved in this process of trying to keep our community safe from this project, and God Bless our United States of America!

Sincerely,
Josh Leffel

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Bridie Monroe
Cheryl Ross
Thu, Jul 30, 2026, 2:13 PM

RECEIVED
AUG 03 2026
Shelly Bauers
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Good morning,
I wanted to write this morning to ask that you vote Yes to the CCS Ordinance. This is not something I want anywhere near my family or community.
Thank you
Bridie Monroe

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AUG 03 2026

Shelly Bauser
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Dear Commissioners,

Wabash County has been fortunate to have good stewards of our land. Rather it be an individual, a professional business or a farmer they have cared for our great county for generations. My family cared enough about our groundwater in Wabash county to start a water well drilling business in 1914. As the time has passed and the torch passed to one generation to another we have always vowed to uphold the highest standards to protect our most precious resource. As a fifth generation groundwater professional I am asking you to take all measures to reduce, stop, prove to these businesses that Carbon Capture Sequestration in our community is not permitted. I realize the ordinance for CCS has been a very difficult journey for the county and threats, lawsuits, and pleading from individuals has taken a lot of your time.

Allowing projects like CCS will jeopardize the integrity of our county that all of our families have fought so hard to protect. Currently most of our groundwater has not reached levels of high contamination and has been a low health risk in our community. Many communities in the United States do not have viable water to use like we do. This should concern all of you. Allowing something that could potentially change the chemistry of our groundwater is unacceptable.

I work throughout Wabash County for many residents, businesses, and farms. Many of these customers my father, grandfather, great grandfather, and great great grandfather worked for theirs. Generation to generation our families worked the land, raised families, and helped one another. It is what we do in our county. Do the right thing vote in favor of the CCS ordinance help your neighbors, and your community.

Thank You,

Brent Klutz

5th generation resident of Wabash County

jill wilcox
Cheryl Ross
Fri, Jul 31, 2026, 3:00 PM

RECEIVED
AUG 03 2026
Shelly Bauser
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Please vote YES to the CCS ordinance on Monday. We don't want carbon sequestration in Wabash County. Thank you!

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AUG 03 2026

Jully Bouc
WABASH CO AUDITOR

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR THE RECORD

TO: Wabash Board of Commissioners**FROM:** Vault 44.01**DATE:** August 3, 2026**RE:** Objection to Proposal to Amend the Wa
Sequestration**HEARING DATE:** August 3, 2026

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I. Introduction

Vault GSL CCS LP ("Vault" or "the written comments in opposition to the proposed ordinance referenced above. Vault is a carbon capture and sequestration ("CCS") developer with projects across the Midwest, including within the State of Indiana and Wabash County. Vault holds a direct and substantial interest in the outcome of this proceeding and urges the Board of Commissioners to decline to adopt the proposed ordinance.

II. Background on the North Manchester Project

CCS is a proven technology that captures carbon dioxide (CO₂) at industrial emission sources and permanently stores it deep underground in geological formations, preventing it from entering the atmosphere. The Indiana Legislature has declared that CCS is in the public interest and has expressly authorized CCS projects in the State of Indiana.

Vault has invested significant time and resources in developing a CCS project to be located at POET's bioprocessing facility in North Manchester (the "North Manchester Project"). The North Manchester Project is designed to capture and sequester biogenic CO₂ on site: CO₂ will not be transported offsite via pipeline and all surface disturbing activities will take place on POET's property. The North Manchester Project, and, indeed, all CCS projects, require comprehensive approvals from State and Federal Agencies relating to siting, construction, operation, and safety. The regulatory and permitting regimes of both the Federal and State Governments are extremely rigorous and designed to allow technical experts within the relevant agencies to thoroughly vet and protect safety, water quality, and other concerns of the community surrounding the North Manchester Project.

III. The Proposed Ordinance Effectively Prohibits CCS Development in Wabash County

While the proposed ordinance is (a) ostensibly designed to replace a comprehensive moratorium on all CCS development in Wabash County that has been in place since June of 2025 and (b) purports to "lawfully regulate and restrict the use of land in Wabash County for the sequestration of liquid carbon dioxide (Liquified CO₂) to secure the public health and general welfare of its citizens," the proposed ordinance is, in fact, so restrictive in its requirements that it serves as a permanent extension of the moratorium by functionally prohibiting all CCS development in Wabash County, *i.e.*, there is no CCS project that will ever be able to meet the requirements of the ordinance.

IV. The Proposed Ordinance Is Unnecessary and Inconsistent with Indiana's Statewide CCS Policy Framework

The proposed ordinance is inconsistent with the public interest of the citizens of Indiana, as declared by the elected officials in the Indiana Legislature, which has determined that CCS is a good thing for the people of Indiana. Because CCS projects, including the North Manchester Project, are so heavily regulated by both State and Federal Agencies with the requisite expertise to ensure that such projects are safe, the ordinance is wholly unnecessary, as it purports to address public health and welfare issues that are already addressed by the experts within the Federal and State Agencies with jurisdiction over such projects.

Furthermore, Wabash County does not appear to have performed or commissioned any form of independent technical review in support of the requirements of the ordinance, rendering the ordinance both (a) further redundant and in conflict with the technically informed requirements established by the State and Federal Agencies charged with regulating CCS development and (b) without any technical or scientific nexus between the health and safety risks associated with CCS development (if any) and the technical requirements of the ordinance that are ostensibly designed to mitigate those risks.

The Indiana General Assembly has affirmatively chosen to encourage CCS as a component of the State's energy and environmental policy and has designated the Indiana Department of Natural Resources ("IDNR") as the state agency with authority to regulate such projects. Local ordinances that effectively nullify this framework contravene the State's expressed policy goals and raise serious questions about the scope of local authority over activities subject to State and Federal permitting jurisdiction.

CCS injection wells are permitted through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Underground Injection Control ("UIC") Class VI program, which includes extensive technical, engineering, financial assurance, and environmental review requirements. The Indiana CCS regulatory framework adopted by statute and through IDNR regulations provide landowner protections for Indiana citizens by imposing strong voluntary participation thresholds and shifting long term liability for safety obligations after site closure to the State. EPA's rigorous permitting process and IDNR's CCS regulations— not local zoning — are the appropriate regulatory mechanisms for evaluating CCS project safety, site suitability, and landowner protections. Layering duplicative or inconsistent local requirements on top of federal ones does not enhance public protection; it creates regulatory conflict and results in an ordinance subject to various legal challenges.

V. Community Involvement

Vault has engaged and is committed to continued engagement with county officials, landowners, and community members throughout the development process. Vault has attempted to engage with Wabash County to develop the safe, economically viable North Manchester Project within the county, and presented public health and safety related facts related to that project to the Plan Commission in a Special Session on March 20, 2025. We welcome dialogue on legitimate site-specific concerns and have consistently demonstrated our commitment to responsible project development.

VI. Requested Action

For the foregoing reasons, Vault 44.01 respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners:

1. Decline to adopt the proposed ordinance;
2. Engage with Vault and other project developers in a manner consistent with Indiana's statewide CCS policy framework.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

CCE9D752C36A434...

Vault 44.01

Megan Davis
Jeff Dawes
Cheryl Ross
Fri, Jul 31, 2026, 6:51PM

, Tyler Niccum

RECEIVED
AUG 03 2026
Jelly Boucse
WABASH CO AUDITOR

Megan Davis would like to recall the message, "Vault 44.01 Comments for Monday's Hearing".

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