

Northwest Neighborhood Alliance Candidate Questionnaire

Name of Candidate: Mary Jo Kilroy

What office are you a candidate for? US Representative Ohio's 15th District

Do you support a statewide moratorium on newly permitted Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO's) until issues such as concentration of animals and improper manure application can be addressed?

Yes. The proposed Hi-Q facility has made it evident that current regulation is not adequate to address the issues presented by proposed CAFO's in Union and Madison Counties. A moratorium would allow state regulations to be improved before we allow new CAFO's into our community.

Should state money go to the promotion and/or recruitment of large scale industrial agriculture in Ohio?

I believe Ohio should be focused on ensuring family farming remains competitive and does not suffer ill effects from encroachment of factory farms. I also support the "buy local" program to encourage business to purchase from small and medium size local farms.

Should CAFO's maintain responsibility for manure disposal from the facility through proper field application?

Yes. CAFO's should be held responsible for the millions of tons of manure they produce from the animal all the way to field application or disposal.

How would you promote and recruit small scale and or organic agriculture in Ohio?

Small and medium family farms must be given fair access to markets. Local family farms should be put ahead of the interests of large, out-of-state corporations. I will support the biofuel industry in Central Ohio because I believe we can grow the next generation of fuel from the farms of Union County. I will also work to upgrade our electric infrastructure so farmers can produce energy from wind, solar or methane and sell it back to the grid.

Should the state legislature decision to take away local control over the citing of CAFO's be overturned?

Yes, local control should be restored. I believe that every community should be able to decide what's best for their area. A factory farm should not be forced on a community that does not want it.

Do you believe the CAFO permitting process should be conducted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture?

I have concerns over whether the Department of Agriculture can separate the conflicting interests of promoting the agriculture industry and protecting our citizens and environment. I believe the Department of Agriculture must abide by strict protocols in regulating and permitting CAFO's and should work in cooperation with township and county agencies that represent the local community.

Do you believe that air emissions, storm water runoff, and quality of life issues caused by CAFO's should be regulated?

Yes. All of these important issues must be considered when deciding whether to let a large factory farm into our community. CAFO's have a wide-ranging effect on the surrounding environment, and each potential health hazard must be accounted for.

Should CAFO's be able to broker manure through a third party and list this as their manure management plan?

No. CAFO's should be held responsible for the millions of tons of manure they produce from the animal all the way to field application or disposal.

Are you in favor of all CAFO's being required to have a storm water pollution control permit, to manage contaminants besides manure that might make it into storm water runoff?

Yes. Every CAFO should be required to report how runoff of manure or other contaminants produced at their factory farm would affect local wetlands and watersheds, even for CAFO's not planning to discharge manure into the water stream, so the local community can accurately respond in the case of an accident or spill.

Should issues such as effects on local infrastructure and depreciation of property values be addressed in the regulatory process?

Yes. Factory farms should bear responsibility for local infrastructure improvements, repairs and any property value depreciation that occurs as a result of the CAFO being located in the community.

Do you oppose locating a multimillion laying hen operation in Union County?

Yes. The people who live and work here have determined that this facility would be detrimental to their health and well-being. The Union County Board of Commissioners, the Union County Board of Health, the York, Liberty, Taylor, and Allen Township Trustees and Marysville City Council have all expressed their opposition to the Hi-Q facility. We should respect their right to decide what is best for their community.

Name one ordinance, legislative action, or resolution that you have put forward to improve the quality of life for your constituents.

In 15 years as a public servant, first as a member of the Columbus School Board, then as a County Commissioner, I have consistently worked to make life better for the people of Central Ohio. Recently, I authored a resolution opposing the Hi-Q facility because of the potential negative impact for the people of Central Ohio. I have increased access to health care by funding Access Health Columbus and several other health clinics, including a dental clinic for our veterans. I have committed Franklin County to sustainable energy policy, introducing biofuel cars to our fleet and ensuring new buildings are energy efficient with LEED certification. I will continue working with this same dedication to improve the lives of my constituents as your Representative in Congress.