

**Comments on Substitute Senate Bill 250 (see 2 additional page for a total of 3 pages)
By: Katharine Jones**

I wish to oppose the approval of Substitute Senate Bill 250.

The reason I give is based on the experience that my (Medina County) community has had dealing with protesting the NEXUS pipeline and Wadsworth Compressor Station (which is part of the NEXUS pipeline).

When members of our Medina County community found out that the NEXUS pipeline was to run through our residential areas and parks, we did hold rallies and protests as is our right under the Constitution, BUT FIRST, we went to our local elected officials for help. They (2013) denied that the pipeline was going to be constructed in Medina County. (We found out that this was in fact, not true and that there had been a secret meeting with NEXUS and it was going to go through our County - 6 townships.) We then went to our State Representatives, Senators, the Ohio EPA, Akron Regional Air Quality Management (ARAQM), FERC, all with the thought that this was how we should proceed to get the help we needed to protect our air, our water, our soil, our park, our environment, our lives.

When this didn't produce any results, we proceeded to petition for a Medina County Charter Initiative with a Community Bill of Rights in order to protect the residents of Medina County. Sustainable Medina County members and other community residents circulated petitions on three separate occasions in order to get a Charter Initiative on the ballot (2015, 2016 and 2017). Each time, we had more than enough valid signatures (over 17,000), but Secretary of State Husted ruled that he would not permit the voters to vote on it. Then, during the Christmas recess in 2016, the House passed House Bill 463 which permitted the Board of Elections to keep the Charter Initiative off the ballot even if there were enough valid signatures, and that is what the Medina County Board of Elections chose to do. SMC then appealed this decision through the Court and the Court sided against the voters.

Because we residents of Medina County have tried every avenue presented to us to protect our very lives, now the the Senate wants to quash our rights to legal protests and civil disobedience. Why? My question is to you is: Wouldn't you protest if you lived across the street from a 29,500hp compressor station that would be spewing toxins every 32 hours into your family's air? (Toxins such as toluene, formaldehyde, radon, hydrogen sulfide, etc.) Would you really not care if it affected you and those you love and the very air you breathe? (PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED MAP AND HEALTH IMPACT FORM ATTACHED.)

NOTE: After HB463 was passed, I questioned a gentleman running for governor in 2018 about this HB463 being unconstitutional. His response to me was that a lot of bills are passed that are unconstitutional, but the public never contests them because they don't know about them. Substitute Senate Bill 250 is another bill that is unconstitutional and shouldn't be permitted to pass.