

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in opposition to Senator Hoagland's SB 250 bill for the following reasons

1. The bill is unnecessary and judging by my interactions with residents across Ohio, including many in Senator Hoagland's district, this bill would have the intended consequence of scaring away the marginal or neutral advocate and/or concerned citizen with respect to existing or proposed "critical infrastructure" or existing infrastructure expansion proposals. This is a bill that comes at the worst time given the broad geographic and demographic concern regarding the Appalachian Storage Hub and Unconventional Oil & Gas Industrial Complex build-out. This build-out is geared towards extracting resources from Appalachian Ohio and getting out to the global market with an eye towards profit maximization. This is antithetical to what the Unconventional Energy industry claimed it was about which was "energy independence" and this flipping of the industry's mission will be met with resistance across the spectrum and that resistance deserves to be heard and addressed.

2. The inclusion of Orwellian and excessive language like "inhibit" and/or "impede" is so broad as to be implying nearly any type of concern would fall under this language. This language would mean that nearly all forms of protest, resistance, council meeting testimony, etc could be prosecuted under SB 250.

3. Such language would put Freedom of Speech and Assembly in the deep freeze for the foreseeable future resulting in only the most ardent supporters and opponents of any piece of critical infrastructure being involved in the debate. This type of "Fat Tail" debate is why Ohio, and the nation writ large, is in the current political situation we find ourselves in today. Debate involves a spectrum or gradient of views and this bill would result in the hollowing out of nearly all concerned Ohioans.

4. This is yet another handout to the PetroChemical Industrial Complex, which already receives \$8.2 billion in taxpayer largesse per year. While it is true that this is not a direct subsidy it is a fringe benefit of being an industry that has been rendered Geopolitically Critical and for that matter Too Big To Fail. The worry among many including myself is that with all the capital being proposed for investment in the Appalachian Storage Hub there will be a quasi-colonial dynamic developing that will require greater and greater amounts of security to maintain the peace. This might sound far fetched but I would suggest the committee look to Africa where China, also a sizeable potential player in the Appalachian Storage Hub, has come to be viewed as a colonial power much like France and England were in the past. This perception has resulted in the employment of sizeable private mercenary forces with former special forces men and women insuring stability but with very little, if any, oversight or media attention. We know that Senator Hoagland has a nontrivial amount of capital invested in a security training provider called Special Tactics and Rescue Training (START) LLC and we also know that these type of firms are currently securing the construction of several Class II injection wells in Brookfield, Ohio (See RIP Security image attached). Furthermore, the very private security firms that were deployed to insure that the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) was constructed in The Dakotas have obtained licenses to operate here in Ohio and across the Midwestern transmission pipeline corridor "Last November, TigerSwan obtained business licenses in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, the three states in the path of ME2." (From <https://theintercept.com/2017/06/21/dakota-access-style-policing-moves-to-pennsylvanias-mariner-east-2-pipeline/>)

- China just doubled down on their investment in Erik Prince - formerly the head of Blackwater - and his latest private security venture Frontier Services
<https://asia.nikkei.com/Markets/Nikkei-Markets/CITIC-Group-Increases-Stake-In-HK-Listed-Frontier-Services-Group-To-40.51>

- A [recent addition of The Economist](#) highlights the geopolitics of energy and there is an explicit link between China's need for natural gas and America's production of gas. See highlighted excerpts

- [Guard the Chinese shops and natural resource supply lines in Africa](#)

- China jumping in the deep end as far as the Appalachian Oil & Gas landscape is concerned to the tune of upwards of \$83 billion

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/china-energy-and-west-virginia-announce-framework-to-invest-83-billion-in-shale-gas-and-chemical-manufacturing-projects-300552702.html>

- Large coal extraction players like Trump's buddy Robert Murray are increasingly struggling to justify their techniques, treatment of labor, and viability of coal. This desperation from Murray and the rest of King Coal will also require security...enter Prince & Co. to defend oil and gas infrastructure as well as legacy coal operations.

5. SB 250 would further solidify the extremely dubious SCOTUS rulings in Citizens United, Buckley v. Valeo, and McCutcheon v. FEC whereby corporations are obtaining all the benefits of citizenship with none of the costs. This is adding to a growing feeling, and one that SB 250 would only amplify, that corporations are socializing all the costs of neoliberal globalization and privatizing all the gains, while demanding direct, and in the case of SB 250, indirect forms of corporate welfare.

6. According to my analysis there are at least >8,000 pieces of infrastructure across the United States that fall under the "critical" umbrella and at least 308 or 4% of them are in Ohio. This says nothing as to the proposals the Petrochemical Industrial Complex has been pitching across The Buckeye State from Dilles Bottom to Toledo and everywhere in between. Furthermore, 50% of the "critical infrastructure" list falls within what I would call the broad Petrochemical Ecosystem and as someone who has mapped, analyzed, and photographed this infrastructure from the air and the ground I must say that the last thing these operations need is more security as I can't count the number of times I have been chased away for doing nothing but photographing existing or under construction fossil fuel projects. The notion that the Petrochemical Industrial Complex needs more security and/or opacity is a farce and a red herring distracting Ohioans, their elected officials, and this judiciary committee from the true issues we need to be focusing on which include fighting climate change, [a growing surveillance state fueled by excessively cozy relationships between elected officials and Silicon Valley](#), bills being brought to Columbus by outside groups like ALEC the author of SB 250 that do nothing to insure a brighter future for Ohioans, a growing rural and urban divide, and an asymmetric distribution of rights and wealth resulting in corporations and the 1% accruing 38% of all gains or [0.1% of American's having as much wealth as the bottom 90%](#). These are the structural issues at play when we discuss security, whether it is at the residential or the corporate level, not making sure that corporations and the infrastructure they build to rent seek from Ohio are more secure. They have all the security and wealth they need and SB 250 would only further this disturbing bifurcation of the US economy. SB 250 needs to be sent back to the Wichita, KS headquarters of the Koch Brothers where it belongs not voted out of this committee and passed into law here in Ohio.

Thank You
Ted Auch

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“Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do” Wendell Berry