



**SB 250 Opposition Testimony
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Cheryl Johncox, November 14, 2018**

Chairman Bacon, Minority Leader Thomas, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for this opportunity to deliver opposition testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 250. My name is Cheryl Johncox, and I am a staff person of the Sierra Club. Since 2016, I have had the privilege to support Ohio families who are also members of sovereign tribal nations. I stood beside many of them as they met peacefully and legally to pray for the protection of their homeland, the water, and a peaceful resolution of terrible events unfolding in Cannonball, North Dakota.

There are thousands of Native families across Ohio. They are registered voters, property and business owners. Senate Bill 250 is an attempt by private industry to use the terrible events of 2016 and 2017 in Cannonball, North Dakota to limit the constitutional rights to association, and freedom of speech, of EVERY OHIOAN. As well as, limit our personal property rights to protect our homes and businesses from seizure by the government using eminent domain. Tragically this is a continuation of the usury and mistreatment of First Nations people spanning 500 years. Sen. Hoagland's statements in front of this body during Sponsorship testimony, comparing the events in North Dakota to armed insurgency in Iraq, are nothing but fear mongering and contemptible.

Ohio law has established significant and thorough grounds for civil and criminal trespass and damages to personal property and property owned by business interests. SB 250 and Sub.SB 250 do not recognize Ohio's existing laws that prosecute anyone who trespasses on or damages property. It is duplicative and unnecessary.

The Bill's threatens and intimidates Ohio organizations with \$100,000 - \$200,000 dollar fines if they object to or "impede" certain private infrastructure or work with citizens exercising their free speech and association rights. Organizations could also be held responsible for "members" whose actions they do not endorse or control.

Senate Bill 250 and Sub. SB 250, are unnecessary, and unconstitutional. I urge members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee to vote against them.