

Despite the claim that SB 250 and Sub SB 250 were crafted to protect critical infrastructure from destructive types of attacks, it's clear their real purpose is to protect the profits and business interests of the oil and gas industry from pesky protesters. I know this because a) the problem of terrorist types of attacks on pipelines and wells simply doesn't exist in Ohio and b) the language in this bill is so broad it encompasses just about any publicly used infrastructure and prohibits even the most passive, peaceful protest at the site of these structures. I understand the oil and gas companies give you politicians a lot of money. I understand that many of you Republican state legislators are members of ALEC, which created this legislation. I understand that since Citizens United, the entities with the most money will drown out the voice of the average citizen. But I also understand this industry is the largest contributor to climate change, which will cause – is already causing -- unimaginable devastation and loss of life around the world. What I don't understand is how you, our elected officials, can be so short-sighted and derelict in your duties. You're ignoring the well-being of the majority of your constituents to kowtow to the few with deep pockets.

Furthermore, SB 250 and Sub SB 250 are direct attacks on my first amendment rights of peaceful assembly and free speech. This should not become law. You shouldn't even be considering it. Are you not sworn to defend the constitution of the United States? It angers me that you want to intimidate and silence me with an unconstitutional law, knowing you'll have to spend my tax dollars defending it. And since when does one group of Americans get to decide that another group of Americans are not to be allowed their constitutional rights?

You betray our American identity and values with SB 250 and Sub SB 250. This legislation and its sponsor Senator Hoagland, vilify citizen activists who must resort to civil disobedience in the face of tyranny and abuse. These folks put themselves in harm's way to protect others, policing big business and government when our elected officials fail to do it. They continue a proud tradition that started with the Boston Tea Party. Activists are our modern day colonial patriots. I ask you, please, try to avoid being our oppressive monarch and vote against this bill going to the floor.

Kimberly Mann
4828 W. Park Dr.
Fairview Park