

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am asking you to vote against SB 33 because it's goal is not to address a problem Ohio has with tampering or destruction of critical infrastructure - a problem that doesn't exist in Ohio - but is truly designed to deter protesters from acting and speaking out against oil and gas companies who are harming our state and its people. This legislature has opposed bills in the past that enhanced penalties for activities already prohibited by law so I have to ask: Why would you now support a bill that does that very thing? We already have laws prohibiting damage to property and trespass. The only purpose for SB 33 is to create fear in the citizens who feel compelled to act on the growing threat of devastating climate change.

Furthermore this bill would impose prohibitive fines against environmental organizations through a guilt by association mechanism for rogue actors, even those who aren't acting on behalf of the organization. This will effectively shut down these organizations that are our only watchdog standing between an industry creating devastation, danger and disease with their radical extraction of oil and gas and the people who live with these threats in their backyard. As was very recently found in a district court in Massachusetts, protesters who "impede or inhibit operations" on pipeline construction sites are not guilty (not responsible) for their actions against oil and gas companies due to the necessity of working against climate change.

Also this bill with it's broad scope and vague language invites abuse of its enforcement as has been seen in other states that have passed similar laws, such as Louisiana. In that state protesters were arrested from public waters and private property adjoining oil and gas infrastructure. If passed this bill will be challenged and taxpayers will be forced to pay to defend our constitutional rights.

SB 33 is bad legislation. Do not allow industry to pressure you into acting against the people you represent. Instead work to keep democracy alive in our state, let our voices be heard and vote no on SB 33 in any form.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Mann

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