

I strongly oppose SB 33 and am frustrated that the committee has chosen to limit opponent testimony concerning the bill.

Citizen-led advocacy groups have a treasured history in the United States and the goal of this bill is simply to quash dissent on key issues.

Whenever I review a piece of legislation, I ask myself, "Who wins and who pays?"

It is clear that the oil and gas industry wins from the enactment of this bill. That is why it has the support of ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council, and state, local and national elected officials who receive campaign funding from the industry.

It is clear that the right to free speech and, from a more global perspective, the right to clean air and water, lose. I hope that every member of the committee prizes the First Amendment to the Constitution, even when confronted with ideas you don't like. All of us, however, require clean air and water and hope for a healthy future for our children. If SB 33 prevents legitimate dissent around ever-increasing oil and gas exploration and transportation, our future is even more imperiled.

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