

Testimony of Nick Teti on SB 250  
18998 CR 3  
Warsaw, OH  
43844

Dr. Terry Engelder, a developer and proponent of modern oil and gas development, used the term “sacrifice zones” to describe the people and communities devastated by constructing toxic heavy industrial infrastructures in their local residential environments. This infrastructure is metastasizing across our state; fracking operations, multi-billion dollar cracker plant processing centers, pipelines, and waste disposal operators injecting billions of gallons of toxic liquids beneath our aquifers.

The working people of Ohio must risk the lifetime investment they have made in their homes. They must allow serious hazards to the health and safety of their families and all those they cherish. They must reconcile themselves to being an expendable population whose rights, independence, and security can be disregarded. Everything that gives their lives quality and meaning must be subordinate to business interests from other states and countries.

This is what current Ohio legislators are trying to enforce with Senate Bill 250. Honest working class people and their families who were meant to be shielded and protected by Ohio law will now see the law used as a weapon against them. We already have laws protecting private property. But the oil and gas industry will brook no popular opposition to their economic and political agenda.

In Ohio, if someone with lots of money and power needs what you have in order to get more money and power, they will be allowed to take it. And, if Ohioans organize to oppose that policy, our legislators will pass special laws threatening them with felonies and financial ruin. And if you oppose those legislators they will say that they are passing these laws to protect their mothers.

Senators, unless your mother is living next to a fracking well that she didn't want, or watching a pipeline being built that will carry hazardous compounds across her land or watching a cracker plant under construction near her neighborhood or waiting for a line of waste tankers backed up on her highway , then she is not the victim here.

We have just celebrated Veteran's Day in remembrance of all the blood that has been spilled in the name of democracy. If you truly honor the sacrifices that were made do not impede the rights of people to assemble and redress their grievances. The laws as they exist are more than adequate to deter any malicious intent by misguided individuals.

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