



THE VOICE OF OHIO'S HIGH-TECH CHEMISTRY COMMUNITY...
MAKING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL OHIOANS.

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Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 33

Jenn Klein, President, Ohio Chemistry Technology Council

Chairman Callender, Vice Chairman Wilkin, Ranking Minority Member Smith and members of the House Public Utilities Committee. My name is Jenn Klein and I am the President of the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 33 (SB 33).

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio's chemical industry. We are the third largest manufacturing industry in the State of Ohio. Ohio, in turn, is the third largest chemical manufacturing state in the United States. In Ohio, the chemical technology industry employs over 40,000 people, pays an average wage of over \$85,000, and provides approximately \$1.3 billion in federal, state and local taxes annually.

SB 33 would protect critical infrastructure from trespassers and willful damage. Ohio law already prohibits criminal trespass, aggravated trespass, and criminal mischief to property, but even with these the current legal protections Ohio has still seen groups and individuals willfully tamper with critical infrastructure as defined in SB 33. OCTC believes that the increase in the penalty for willfully committing these acts will serve as a further deterrent to individuals and organizations wishing to do harm to the industries that would be further protected in this legislation.

This bill is of interest to OCTC members because damage to chemical facilities can lead to grave consequences that threaten the public's health and safety. The chemical industry recognized the seriousness of this issue in 2007 and worked with Congress to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to pass regulations known as the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS).

Under CFATS, the Department of Homeland Security works with chemical facilities to ensure that they have security measures in place to protect the facilities and the public in the event of a terrorist attack.



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While SB 33 does not focus on preventing terrorist attacks against chemical facilities, the underlying concern is the same. When chemical facilities are willfully damaged, there is a real risk to public health and safety. SB 33 provides a deterrent to such criminal conduct. It therefore has the strong support of OCTC and its members, and we urge this committee to vote in favor of the bill's passage.

Thanks, again, to the members of the committee for this opportunity to provide written testimony. For Ohio's chemical industry and indeed the whole industry nationwide, safety and security are the most paramount concerns. It is why in addition to CFATS, we also work closely with other regulators, including the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. Furthermore, across the state the industry has robust community advisory panels (CAP). These CAPs bring together community leaders, first responders, and individuals who reside around the facility. CAPs meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of importance to the community and the facility.

Sincerely,

Jenn Klein
President