

## **Testimony for S.B. 33: Modify criminal and civil law for critical infrastructure damage**

House Public Utilities Committee  
2:00 p.m., Room 116

You have already heard expert and moving testimony about S.B. 33. Surely you have also read the testimonies that ordinary citizens brought before the Ohio Senate on this bill. Ohioans from across the state with no other purpose than to ensure the health of our people, state, and democracy have poured out their concerns, and they have backed them with scholarly data and personal experiences.

For those of you still considering voting “yea,” I want to know what would help you understand how devastating SB 33 is for Ohio. Frankly, and perhaps unfairly, I wonder if any arguments will alter what happened in the Ohio Senate last May. More than a hundred Ohioans have already described the horrors of this bill. Many traveled long distances to personally deliver their comments. Additionally, sixteen spokespersons representing large environmental, social justice, health, and faith-based communities made the trek. On the other side, just six persons spoke in favor of the bill, all representing well-healed organizations. In sum, 122 citizens testified against SB 33 and 6 lobbyists for it.

So what happened? The final vote tally was 14 yeas and 8 nays. How is this possible in a genuine democracy? It’s not democracy when six powerful entities count more than 120 citizens. (I might add that each person submitting testimony represent the views of the vast majority of Ohioans. Not everyone can take time from jobs and families to testify.)

I feel like pleading with you to not do the same as the Senate, but that would not be fair to you. I have to believe that all of you want the best for the people of Ohio. What I’m trying to do, therefore, is understand why any conscientious representative of the people of Ohio would consider voting for SB 33. I realize that some of you are part of ALEC and thus feel an obligation to it. Yet ALEC was founded by fossil fuel billionaires whose sole interest is to increase their profits. The Koch Brothers do not care a hoot about Ohioans, our health, our state, or our democracy. I get the loyalty aspect, but what about loyalty to the people of Ohio who are depending on you to do what’s right for them. What about your obligations to a government of, by, and for the people?

I will conclude with further questions: Who would support a bill that Ohioans overwhelmingly oppose? Who would support a bill that is so fundamentally and irreversibly destructive to the health of our people and our environment? Who would support a bill that smacks the heck out of our rights to free speech? Finally, why even the consideration of a bill that seeks to punish individuals whose only crime would be acting out of concern for their fellow men, women, and children. This bill forces people to choose between their freedom and the safety of their families, friends, and other Ohioans. After all, if you were faced with this decision, what would you do?

You are facing an important decision, but not a difficult one. Ohioans are counting on each and every one of you to show your true selves as our genuine representatives and vote against SB 33.

Most respectfully,  
Sandy Bolzenius

