

October 22, 2019

I am writing as an opponent to SB 33 which would criminalize the right for peaceful protest at various sites within the State. As a resident of Southeast Ohio, a property owner of 25 acres of an old strip mine and various public lands in SE Ohio, I believe that it is critical that those of us impacted have the right to express our opposition to the degradation of our lands. The protection of our lands, air and water as well as safety and wellbeing of all life requires us to be diligent.

I believe that this bill is overkill – we currently have laws in place for criminal trespassing, criminal destruction as well as theft. Why is this necessary? Concerned citizens have a fundamental right to educate the public of dangers and express our opposition. And this bill takes punitive steps by fining organizations which may be connected a person being arrested. This organization may have no involvement in the action but can be penalized.

I do not know of any situations in Ohio where a person at a site actually harmed a “critical infrastructure” but I do know multiple incidents of spills, truck accidents, explosions of oil and gas structures that killed fish, polluted waters and destroyed homes. Why not propose a bill that holds companies accountable for their costly and often deadly impacts on our lands?

I cannot support any bill which prevents citizens from peacefully speaking up. The government is for the people, not for the corporations.

I believe that if this bill is passed, we will have it over turned as being unlawful.

As a mother and grandmother, their healthy future is my concern. And I will continue to advocate for their health and well being.

Sincerely,

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