

November 18, 2019

Randy Cunningham
3623 West Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44111

216-245-1073

Cleveland Environmental Action Network (CLEAN)

Testimony Opposing SB 33

Dear Public Utilities Committee, leadership and committee members. I have previously stated my opposition to SB 33 for many reasons. My opposition can be summed up very simply.

The sole purpose of this legislation is to chill free speech and intimidate those who oppose the activities of the oil and gas industry in Ohio. All the crimes and misdemeanors that it hopes to prevent, are already covered by existing Ohio law. The oil and gas industry started promoting legislation such as SB 33 in the aftermath of the Standing Rock, North Dakota demonstrations opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) in 2016-2017. As we have seen repeatedly throughout our history, repression follows dissent and protest like the night follows the day. SB 33 is a very, very old story. Unless legislation addresses the problems that inspires the dissent and protest, it will fail to shut people up.

So, in short SB 33 is unnecessary legislation that duplicates existing law, is designed to intimidate into silence protest and dissent, and in the end will fail in that mission. There is no shortage of productive work for the House of Representatives to apply itself to, instead of this loser legislation. Let it mercifully die, and not waste anymore of your time.

Thank you,

Randy Cunningham