

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

HOUSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVE JAMIE CALLENDER, CHAIRMAN

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: January 28, 2020

NAME: Anne Caruso

ORGANIZATION:

(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: 2273 Bellfield Ave _____

CITY: STATE: Cleveland, Ohio _____ ZIP: 44106 _____

TELEPHONE: 216-577-1322 _____

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF ORGANIZATION _____

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON

LEGISLATION SB33: _____

SPECIFIC ISSUE: freedom of speech

SUBJECT MATTER: protest

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR POSITION ON THE BILL

PROPONENT: _____

OPPONENT: _____ _____

INTERESTED PARTY: _____

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

This unnecessary bill is designed to have a chilling effect on free speech

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES _____ NO _____

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? No testimony is being allowed in-person at this hearing so here is my written testimony:

Chairperson Callender and Ohio House Public Utilities Committee Members,

Thank you for reading this testimony. I am very concerned about the chilling effect SB33 would have on lawful protest in Ohio. Free speech is fundamental to America. Passing legislation that deliberately discourages free speech is un-American. Our laws must be written in such a way to keep their application specific so that the public knows what is legal and what is not. SB33 is purposely vague and broad so as to create a chilling effect on citizens who might consider the honorable act of peaceful protest. You might wonder why there's a problem if the protest is peaceful. The wording in SB33 of what "critical infrastructure" is, what "tampering" is, and what would be considered being complicit in a protest that results in arrests is all broad and easily subject to misuse by unscrupulous people in positions of power. Yes, unscrupulous people sometimes have power in America, unfortunately.

This law does nothing to protect the public from terrorists, which I have been told is the reason we need it. We already have strong laws against vandalism and trespass. We have the extreme measures in the Patriot Act that gives you and law enforcement more intrusive power than ever to find and stop terrorists. We don't need SB33 except if we want to make citizens think twice before joining a protest sponsored by a citizens' group.

Laws like SB33 have cropped up all over the country ever since the 2016 peaceful protests of Native Americans and their allies against the intrusion of the KXL pipeline on their land and under the Missouri River, the source of their region's drinking water. Laws like SB33 are designed to prevent any more protest from delaying construction of pipelines, crackers, compressor stations and the rest of the oil and gas infrastructure that is killing our planet and sickening the people who live near it. Did you know the protest at Standing Rock was the Tribe's last resort because the construction of the pipeline was being done without the required environmental impact study? In fact, that impact study was never completed as required by law even as the tribe lost its battle and the pipeline was constructed.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna739296> .

You see we are always struggling against America becoming un-American. When you pass a law that is unnecessary and has a goal of discouraging people from exercising free speech you are on the wrong side of that struggle.

It's important to note that once the KXL pipeline opened, there have been 10 spills between 2017 – 2019. <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/20082019/standing-rock-dakota-access-pipeline-impact-assessment-court-double-capacity?amp>.

What a beautiful planet the Creator has given us with a perfect "Goldilocks" climate that is not too cold and not too hot, but just right for life as we know it. In the coming months and years people will take to the streets to attempt to make you acknowledge what science is telling us about how to avert total annihilation of our climate. SB33 attempts to block those efforts to get legislators to write laws and policy that align with the dire warning science is giving us. This subject does not require our opinion. It is fact. We, as a state, as a country, need the alarm sounded from time to time to demand that our representatives act on the facts.

In case you have not seen them, here are those facts and that warning: “The IPCC Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5C”

<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>.

The Summary for policymakers is the very first section.

What America needs are legislators who are informed, not duped by those who would use them to enrich themselves at the expense of the rest of us. We’re at a critical time in history. You have an opportunity to point Ohio in the direction of greater prosperity and democracy or greed and destruction. I pray you make the right choice. Vote against SB33.
