

Loraine McCosker
59 Elmwood Place
Athens Ohio 45701

1/28/2020

State Representative Jamie Callender
Chairman of the House Public Utilities Committee
Ohio House District 61
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear State Representative Jamie Callender
Chairman of the House Public Utilities Committee

As a constituent of Athens County, represented by Jay Edwards I strongly oppose HB 33. As an educator that has participated in free speech and protest, I would like to remind the committee that it is supported by the constitution.

HB 33 is a dangerous assault on civil liberties and free speech. It is unnecessary, since trespass is already covered by Ohio law. The legislation is clearly meant to intimidate individuals and non-profit organizations that organize people to speak out against assaults by the oil and gas industry against our communities, climate, and public health.

Under the bill, organizations can be held liable for others' actions through guilt by association, with ten times greater penalties than penalties individuals would receive. This can only be intended to squelch environmental advocacy, so essential at this time of accelerating climate chaos.

I strongly oppose the passage of this bill.

Thank you,

Loraine McCosker
59 Elmwood Place
Athens Ohio 45701