To the Honorable Chairman Jamie Callender and Members of the Public Utilities Committee,

I am an Ohio citizen who has testified and attended meetings five times before the Senate and House on the issue of SB 33 over the past couple of years. My round trip to Columbus is two hundred miles. I spent a good deal of time researching and composing my testimony. I have no regrets about the time and effort I have invested in having my voice heard on this legislation. I feel privileged to be a part of a nation that gives me the right to share my opinions and ideas with my lawmakers.

My participation in the legislative process, however, has opened my eyes to a troubling paradigm has taken root in the Ohio Legislature. SB 33 falls into the pattern of much of our current legislation. Legislation is introduced at secret meetings to key legislators representing states across the nation. It is then carried to state legislatures and shepherded through the committees by corporate lobbyists and politicians influenced by large campaign contributions. In order to get reelected our lawmakers must acquiesce to promoting the drafted legislation or face well-funded corporate challengers and hostile political ads in their next primary election contest. The distribution and support for this autocratic boardroom agenda is carried out by a coordinated group of organizations known collectively as the State Policy Networks.

The coordinating entity behind all of this legislation by proxy, payoffs to lawmakers, and distorting public perception of issues and candidates with unlimited spending is the American Legislative Exchange Council, (ALEC), an industry lobbying front group that gets away with masquerading as a 501c3 charity. Here is a partial list of those who have promoted the corporate interests and influenced regulations of COAL, OIL and GAS- (ExxonMobil, Shell Oil, Peabody Energy, Chevron, Cheniere Energy, Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, and the American Petroleum Institute); TELECOMS- (AT&T, Comcast, Verizon, Time Warner Cable, and the National Cable and Telecommunications Association); TOBACCO & ALCOHOL- (Altria {formerly Phillip Morris} and Reynolds American, Anheuser-Busch and Diageo); TRANSPORTATION- (UPS, FedEx, Transurban, BNSF Railroad, and Norfolk Southern), and PHARMACEUTICALS- (Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Bayer, PhRMA, and Celgene.)

Last but not least are the long time funders of ALEC, Charles and David Koch - Koch Brothers Enterprises and Founding Member of ALEC, the man who turned Ohio into the new sewer for oil and gas waste, John Kasich.

Below are a list of current and past legislators who allow corporations lobbyists to write the laws that govern the people of Ohio.

Ohio Legislators with ALEC Ties

TO SEE SOURCES GO TO

U.S. Representative

- Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-7) [1]

House of Representatives

- Rep. Tom Brinkman (R-27)[4][5]
• Rep. James Butler (R-41), ALEC Health and Human Services Task Force Member[6][7] and Communications and Technology Task Force Alternate.[8] Paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on February 19, 2015, and reported $525 spent on ALEC conferences in 2013.[9]
• Rep. Robert. C. Cupp (R-04) former OH Supreme Court Justice.[10]
• Rep. Bill Dean (R-74), Attended 2019 ALEC States and Nation Policy Summit[2]
• Rep. Tim Ginter (R-5), paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on February 13, 2015.[9]
• Rep. Doug Green (R-66), paid ALEC 2-year membership fees on March 9, 2017, on February 2, 2015, and on March 24, 2013.[8]
• Rep. George Lang (R-52), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3]
• Rep. Jeffrey LaRe (R-77), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3]
• Rep. Scott Lips (R-62), registered member
• Rep. Riordan McClain (R-87), Paid $100 in campaign expenditures to ALEC in 2017,[13] paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on January 18, 2013.[12]
• Rep. Derek Merrin (R-47), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3], registered member, paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on March 10, 2017.[12]
• Rep. Rick Perales (R-73), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3], paid ALEC 2-year membership fees on October 6, 2016, and on March 18, 2015.[12][5]
• Rep. Bill Reineke (R-88), registered member
• Rep. Craig Riedel (R-82), registered member
• Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-2)[14]
• Rep. Scott Ryan (R-71), registered member, paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on March 24, 2015.[12]
• Rep. Gary Scherer (R-92), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3][4], paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on January 27, 2015.[9]
• Rep. Dick Stein (R-57), registered member. Paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on March 8, 2017.[9]
• Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-01), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3], registered member
• Rep. Shane Wilkin (R-91), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3]
• Rep. Paul Zeltwanger (R-64), paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on February 17, 2015.[12][5]

Senate

• Sen. Andrew Brenner (R-19)[14]. Paid ALEC $1,550 in conference and membership fees since 2013, including ALEC conferences in 2016 and 2017, and paying ALEC 2-year membership fees on July 2, 2015 and on April 23, 2013.[9]
• Sen. David Burke (R-26), ALEC Health and Human Services Task Force Member[7]
• Sen. William P. Coley, II (R-4), Attended 2019 ALEC Annual Meeting[3]; State Chair, ALEC Civil Justice Task Force. Sen. Coley has disclosed $3,925 in payments to ALEC for events and membership since 2013.[9][12] Member since at least 2011[15]
• Sen. John Eklund (R-18)[17][19]
Sen. Matt Huffman (R-12), ALEC Civil Justice Task Force Member, registered member. Campaign finance expenditure filings with the Ohio Secretary of State show Sen. Huffman spent $1,300 on ALEC events and membership in the year 2017.  
Sen. Larry Obhof (R-22), paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on Feb. 21, 2018.  
Sen. Kirk Schuring (R-29), paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on April 21, 2017, along with a $150 ALEC conference registration fee.  

New Carlisle City Council

Councilman Ethan Reynolds

Former Representatives

Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-76), paid ALEC $600 on November 14, 2017 for "events."
Rep. Ron Young (R-61), ALEC Member  
Rep. Wes Retherford (R-51); State Chair. Paid ALEC 2-year membership fees on December 27, 2016, on December 9, 2014, and on January 18, 2013.  
Rep. Terry Johnson (R-90), paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on February 1, 2015.  
Rep. Jim Hughes (R-24), paid ALEC 2-year membership dues on November 1, 2016, on October 6, 2014, and on May 15, 2013, all listed to an address outside of ALEC's offices at the time.  
Rep. Mike Henne (R-46), paid ALEC $575 since 2013, including for 2-year membership fees on February 28, 2017, and on February 26, 2015.  
Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-19), ALEC Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force Member  
Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-6), ALEC Education Task Force member since at least 2011.  
Rep. Cliff Rosenberger (R-91); State Chair, ALEC Communications and Technology Task Force. Paid ALEC $175 "filing fee," presumably for membership, on April 12, 2017.  


fees on October 21, 2016, but on February 20, 2015, and on January 29, 2013. Member since at least 2011.

- Rep. John P. Adams (R-85) is a State Chairman and a member of the Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force.

- Rep. Ron Amstutz (R-1) is a member of the Communications and Technology Task Force and an Alternate.
- Rep. Nan Baker (R-14) is a member of the Communications and Technology Task Force.

- Speaker William G. Batchelder (R-69) is a member of ALEC.
- Rep. Peter A. Beck (R-70) is a member of ALEC.

- Rep. Louis Blessing (R-29) is a member of ALEC.
- Rep. Louis W. Blessing, III, is the representative-elect.

- Rep. Terry R. Boone (R-57) is a member of ALEC's Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force.

- Rep. Danny Bubp (R-88) is a member of ALEC.

- Rep. George J. Buchy (R-84) is a member of ALEC.

- Rep. John A. Carey, Jr. (R-87) is a member of the Education Task Force and an Alternate.


- Rep. Rex Damschroder is a member of ALEC.

- Speaker Jo Ann Davidson is a member of ALEC.

- Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-30) is a member of ALEC.

- Former Rep. Robert Mecklenborg (R-99) is a member of ALEC.


- Rep. Barbara Sears (R-47) is a member of ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force.

- Rep. Todd Snitchler (Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio as of 2011) is a member of ALEC.

- Rep. Gerald L. Stebelton (R-77) is a member of ALEC's Education Task Force.

- Rep. Michael Stinziano (D-18) is a member of the ALEC Communications and Technology Task Force.

- Rep. Ronald Suster (D) is currently Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge.

- Rep. Pat Tiberi is a member of ALEC.

- Rep. Lynn Wachtmann (R-81) is a member of ALEC's Health and Human Services Task Force.

Former Senators

- Sen. Louis Terhar (R-08); State Chair, paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on November 17, 2017, on January 19, 2015, and on January 17, 2019. Member since at least 2011.

Sen. Brian Hill, paid ALEC 2-year membership fees on December 12, 2017, on January 30, 2015, and on January 16, 2013. Hill has been an ALEC Member since at least 2011.


Sen. Grace L. Drake (R) paid ALEC 2-year membership fee on October 15, 2016. Hite who was previously a member of the Ohio House of Representatives.

Sen. Michael A. Fox. (R) was director Butler County Children's services, currently serving prison term for corruption.

Sen. Shannon Jones (R-7)

Sen. Tom Niehaus (R-14), ALEC Energy, Environment and Agriculture Task Force Member.

Sen. Lynn Wachtmann

TO SEE SOURCES GO TO