

April 9, 2019

GoodMorning Chairman Eklund and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Katharine Jones, and I am testifying as a citizen of Ohio and also as a member of Sustainable Medina County. Our group has held rallies and protested against the NEXUS pipeline and Wadsworth Compressor Station. You are probably not aware of the fact that not only does the NEXUS pipeline pose a very real threat to the residents of Medina County, but so does the Wadsworth Compressor Station as it will emit, via of blowdowns every 32 hours, toxic chemicals such as radon, benzene, toluene, formaldehyde, hydrogen sulfide all which will harm the health of the residents of Medina County, The Ohio EPA has said that it is never going to monitor the air around this compressor station. Medina County residents also protested because their properties were being taken by eminent domain and the pipeline was not for public use in Medina County but for the private company of Spectra Energy and the Canadian company, Enbridge.

I can tell you that not one person who has protested this pipeline in our County has ever broken any laws or caused any vandalism to any property, nor was there any trespassing. WE ARE NOT TERRORISTS!

I ask you, would any one of you not protest if your family's health and safety were in danger? Would you just sit there and let it happen. Do you really think it is wrong for people to protest to protect their air, their water, their soil, their environment?

We have merely been exercising our rights to freedom of speech and Senate Bill 33 is unconstitutional because it violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. We all have the right to Freedom of Speech.

I believe that the legislature is again abusing it's power by drafting another unconstitutional bill. You all were sworn into office to protect the public from harm and Senate Bill 33 has been written to protect the natural gas industry again. You ask us to respect you as elected representatives, yet you disrespect your constituents by trying to strip them of the right to peacefully protest to protect all that they hold dear - their homes and their families.

There are already laws in Ohio that punish vandals and trespassers so it seems that this bill is meant to merely intimidate and discourage us. We know that ALEC is promoting this bill. Please start listening to your constituents because one day the aforementioned harms could affect you and

your family and I don't think you would just sit there silently while your air and water and homes are destroyed.

Vote no on Senate Bill 33 - and know that we are all watching.

Respectfully,

Katharine Jones
(resident of Medina County, Ohio)