

Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 33
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Greetings, Chairman Callender and public utilities committee members. I am submitting my testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 33.

I am sure you would agree that the citizens of Ohio want their representatives to be working on issues in Ohio where there is a problem or a need that legislation can help remediate. If Ohio's representatives are working on legislation for which there is not a problem or a need then it is a waste of the legislators' time at the taxpayers' expense.

Rather than make amendment to this bill to try to ameliorate some of the concerns of those who have testified against this bill, the onus is on Senator Hoagland, or other legislators in support of this bill, to describe incidents in Ohio that demonstrate why the current Ohio laws against criminal trespass and vandalism are not adequate. I have not heard of any incidents and, of course, there are none.

Therefore, it is obvious that the impetus of Senate Bill 33 is coming from the oil and gas industry, and other corporate interests, who don't like the people protesting against their practices when they adversely affects the health, safety, and welfare of the people. Of course, the oil and gas corporations would like to stifle protests against their practices.

I also object to the definition of critical infrastructure in this bill. To me, critical infrastructure includes schools and hospitals.

If you, dear representatives, are to support this bill then you are being an instrument of big money corporate interests against one of the most important rights of the people – the right of free speech. Please stop wasting your time and ours on this unnecessary bill.

Thank you.