

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM
HOUSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE JAMIE CALLENDER, CHAIRMAN

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 1/27/2020

NAME: KATHARINE BEUTNER

ORGANIZATION: _____

(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: 3593 TULLAMORE ROAD

CITY: CLEVELAND HEIGHTS STATE: OH ZIP: 44118

TELEPHONE: 512-289-8904

ARE YOU REPRESENTING: YOURSELF ORGANIZATION _____

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER): SB 33

SPECIFIC ISSUE: _____

SUBJECT MATTER: _____

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:

I am submitting testimony against SB 33 and any proposed legislation that would criminalize peaceful protest. The people should always have the right to protest using nonviolent direct action when corporations or government bodies are acting unjustly or causing harm to humans and our environment. These "critical infrastructure" bills aim to target protesters, to cause a chilling effect that will shut down lawful, peaceful protests by imposing extreme penalties and stretching the definition of "critical infrastructure" to absurd lengths. Would you have argued that the protesters on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, should have been arrested and assessed extreme fines because a bridge is "critical infrastructure"?

Doing the bidding of ALEC and similar corporate interest groups is not the job of the Ohio State House. Instead, you should be protecting the rights of the people of Ohio when they seek to peacefully raise their voices. Violent actions and property destruction are already criminalized under current Ohio law. There is no reason to pass this bill except to deter lawful, peaceful protest and civil disobedience. The State House should defend protected

First Amendment rights to free speech, not limit those rights at the behest of corporate donors. Please vote against SB 33 and any future legislation that seeks to criminalize peaceful protest.

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? N/A

I understand that in-person testimony is not being allowed. Please submit my written testimony on this form. Thank you.