

SB 33: Opponent Testimony

Public Utilities Committee
CHAIR: Jamie Callender
January 29, 2020, 11:00 AM
Room 116

I had another piece planned to deliver in person to be sure that all committee members heard it. I wanted to put the bill in historical context. Now that the committee has decided against additional oral testimonies from citizens, I will just say this. Many committee members have seemed determined from the beginning to approve a bill that, for all its talk about protecting critical infrastructure, it is really about ensuring the unhampered development of the fracking industry in Ohio. Its passage will only clear the way for a massive build-up of infrastructure that is not critical but rather dangerously deadly. One major project is the creation of another cancer ally as in Louisiana, only this one will be in southeast Ohio. Why was such a bill even introduced in the Ohio Legislature? How can any of the members of this committee vote in favor of such a dangerous bill?

In short, SB 33 is about felonizing, fining, and incarcerating those with no other motives than to protect our water, air, and soil so as to protect an industry with no other motive than to maximize its profits. The fracking business does not care about our environment. It has no qualms about destroying it and hence threatening the health of those who depend it. You may be able to relocate your loved ones from Ohio, but what everyone else? Or do they not matter? In a real democracy, who would be the criminal here?

Do the right and moral thing, and vote NO on SB 33.

Sincerely,

Sandy Bolzenius
January 28, 2020