

January 27, 2020 for hearing date Jan 29, 2020  
Opposition Witness Written Testimony, SB 33  
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee  
Sarah J Culver

Chairman Callendar, Vice Chair Wilkin, Ranking Member Smith and members of the House Public Utilities Committee; I write in opposition to SB 33.

This legislation is unnecessary and would serve to thwart free speech. The language regarding what constitutes a violation is unclear, yet the penalties for violations are extreme and harsh. Individuals and groups in a healthy democracy must have the right to assemble, protest, and voice concerns and should not face extreme penalties for doing so. This bill could also wrongly penalize people, and organizations they are affiliated with, who unwittingly violate it. Current legislation already exists to protect public utilities. This bill would only serve to harm our democracy and unfairly penalize individuals and nonprofit organizations.

I urge you to vote against SB 33. Thank you.