

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

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: 27 JANUARY 2020

NAME: REV. JEFFREY B. GAMBLEE

ORGANIZATION: _____
(IF APPLICABLE)

POSITION/TITLE: RETIRED UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTER

ADDRESS: 6152 DAJANA DR.

CITY: WESTERVILLE STATE: OH ZIP: 43081

TELEPHONE: 917.370.9711

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:

SB 33 is an opportunity for abuse.

Consider this imaginary newspaper article:

***Future Dateline Columbus*:**

The Prosecutor Duke says the students were protesting at the site of critical infrastructure and he will follow the law.

Community anger is high over County Prosecutor William Duke's decision to file felony charges against St. Swithin's School and the Columbus Diocese for a protest conducted by the students of St. Swithin's Middle School. The students were protesting against the decision of the City Council to remove warming shelters in the Hilltop. Prosecutor Duke claims the protest took place over a

natural gas pipeline which Duke considers critical infrastructure and therefore he has the legal and moral responsibility to charge the students and the Diocese. Duke said, "These kids wanted to see what civil protest looks like, and I'm showing them." Columbus police report four of the students stepped off the curb during the action and three of them wrote words of protest on the sidewalk with chalk, which Duke considered "altering the site" and that triggered the felony charges.

Under Senate Bill 33, Prosecutor Duke has the right to not only charge the students, with the possibility of a \$10,000 fine each; he has the right to take the Diocese to civil court for supporting the students. The Diocese is looking at a \$100,000 fine if it loses the case and attorney expenses either way. A person not authorized to speak for the Diocese said this would be crippling to the parents as well as the educational system of the Diocese. Parent of one of the students, Ann Freiburger, 41 who lives in Clintonville said "the protest was peaceful. It was part of the curriculum to encourage the kids to become involved in their community." Another parent, Fred Briggs, 44 of Gahanna, said "Prosecutor Duke is a bully and is using his office to squash public involvement in our community. What kind of model is he creating for our kids?"

Prosecutor Duke ran on a platform of law and order, often claiming during his campaign that protest was not always good for the community and that he would use SB 33 any way he could to control citizen action.

end of imaginary story

Rev. Jeffrey B. Gamblee
6152 Dajana Dr.
Westerville, OH

WILL YOU HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES___ NO_XX___

(IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES TO THE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE? _____