



FaCT-Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future

January 27, 2020

FaCT-Faith Communities Together has been working since 2011 on an interfaith basis to protect the Creation and the health and safety of Ohio families threatened by extreme extraction practices like those practiced in the shale development industry. We also work to promote the rapid conversion of our energy system away from fossil fuels and onto green, renewable energy.

We would like to thank State Representative Jamie Callender (District 18) for his kind attention to us on the recent phone conference we had with him regarding SB 33. At the end of our conversation, Rep. Callender said he would be open to further amendment ideas. We did take this under advisement and discussed the matter. However, in our opinion, the bill is too flawed to be amended in a way that would make it non-threatening to First Amendment freedoms.

Although the recently proposed amendment to the bill removes liability from organizations that are deemed to support protests, this bill is still a threat to individual civil and religious liberty. In times like these, speaking out against and demonstrating against environmental outrages that threaten people and the natural environment is the duty of everyone with a conscience. As people of faith, we feel duty-bound to undertake this kind of speech which is protected by the Bill of Rights.

We continue to believe that SB 33 is merely designed to intimidate – to discourage citizens concerned about environmental damage from demonstrating and to create a chill amongst citizens of good conscience against expressing their opinions via protests and demonstrations without providing any additional meaningful measure of public safety. Current laws and law enforcement personnel and resources are sufficient to protect infrastructure and the public.

-Ron Prosek, President
(resident of Mentor, OH)
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