

Dear Senator Eklund,

I am asking you to OPPOSE Senate Bill 33, which alleges to “Protect critical infrastructure facilities from mischief.” As you already know, if enacted, this Bill would highly curtail the rights to freedom of opinion and peaceful assembly in ways that are incompatible with the First Amendment of the American Constitution.

This bill is a clear attack on free speech. It increasingly criminalizes peaceful protest. We already have strong laws in place to protect against trespass. There is no reasonable need to make trespass a felony, especially when the law is limited only to “corporate infrastructure.”

The public knows this bill was written by ALEC and funded and backed by the oil and gas industry and corporate interests. It is a direct attack on citizens and environmental organizations striving to protect our environment. Otherwise, why wouldn't the law be aimed at anti-abortion activists that terrorize citizens and businesses? White supremacist activists? Or ANY other protest?? Clearly this legislation is a payback to the oil and gas industry, not an effort to enact sound or needed legislation.

This type of bill is a chilling reminder of the anti-American, undemocratic forces at work to kill any type of protest in our country. What side of history will you be on?

I have attached my Judiciary Committee Witness Form so that this letter may be introduced as written testimony.

Thank you,  
Lori Babbey