

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 33.

Oppressive governments frequently deploy a pretext for curtailing people's rights. "Critical infrastructure" fits this pattern closely, asserting as it does a necessity—"critical"—as a given, as though beyond any need for evidence or justification. This dangerous legislation, indeed, can not stand up to such scrutiny.

Ohio already has laws against trespassing; Ohio already has laws against damaging property. Given this reality, and the legislation's resemblance to cookie-cutter "model legislation" being shopped around by outside money, I must conclude that SB 33 is not even intended to serve the interests of Ohio's people.

A bill such as this should be rejected, for these reasons alone.

The case against SB 33 is even more significant, however, given that its real intent seems to be intimidation of and suppression of public protest. The framers of America's government only agreed on our Constitution with the inclusion of the Bill of Rights, and the very first protection under the Bill of Rights includes freedom of speech and the right of the people peaceably to assemble.

The people's representatives, sworn to uphold our Constitution, should always be demanding when considering a law which threatens rights such as these. The content and history of SB 33 fall well short of a demanding standard for public interest, while the bill's threat to Constitutional liberties is real.

Please reject SB 33.

Sincerely,
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