

Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee  
Testimony in Opposition of SB 33

To: Chairperson John Eklund  
Ranking Member Cecil Thomas  
Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Opposition to SB 33

Dear Chairperson Eklund, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am submitting this written public testimony to you as a concerned citizen and resident of Ohio.

The proponents (corporate interests) of this proposed legislation would have you believe that peaceful protest and peaceful direct-action participants are paid “outlaws” and “terrorists.” Do not be fooled. Peaceful protestors and direct-action participants are simply exercising their rights of assembly and free speech.

SB 33 does nothing to protect the health and safety of Ohioans since the greatest threats and damage come from the very corporate interests this proposed legislation seeks to protect. Protestors have not caused frack fluid spills, or decimated farm fields. Protestors did not cause explosions at oil and gas facilities. Protestors have not compromised Ohio’s regulatory bodies with money and influence.

Lastly, I am gravely concerned about the very independence of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee. Fifty percent of your members are associated with the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) which operates primarily for the private benefit of its corporate members.

Ohio’s communities and citizens need protection from corporate avarice and malfeasance, not the other way around. SB 33 is simply legislation designed by corporate interests for corporate interests.

I ask you, as elected officials, working for the benefit of the citizens and communities of the State of Ohio to vote no on Senate Bill 33 when it comes before you.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Birosh  
Brunswick, Ohio