

To Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Eklund,

I write to strongly oppose the proposed Ohio Senate Bill 33, to amend sections 2909.07, 2909.10, 2911.21, 2911.211, 2917.21, and 2917.32 and to enact section 2307.67 of the Revised Code to modify certain criminal offenses with respect to critical infrastructure facilities and to impose fines and civil liability for damage to a critical infrastructure facility. Legislation designed to limit individuals' and organizations' ability to engage in peaceful protest is counter to the US Constitution's protection for peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. Focusing the SB 33 on environmental activities is detrimental to providing avenues for dialog and accountability to entities that cause harm to our State's ecosystems. We live in a time where children are determining that the adults in charge of protecting our planet are not stepping up to provide these protections, it is even more critical that we do not eliminate avenues for peaceful discourse.

As a tax-paying, voting resident in the State of Ohio, I implore you to act responsibly and not only vote no to this bill, but vocalize how this harms future generations in terms of limiting our basic American constitutional rights and of silencing the voices who know that leaving environmental issues to be unchecked will be harmful to the planet we inhabit.

Sincerely,

Dianne Bouvier
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