

To Chairman Eklund and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Ann Money Penny. I live in Athens County and I am presenting opponent testimony to SB 33.

First and foremost, the prime sponsor of this legislation, State Senator Frank Hoagland is in conflict of interest. He is the founder of START, the Special Tactics and Rescue Training security company. This company serves the oil and gas industry. Senator Frank Hoagland is also a member group of the Ohio Valley Oil & Gas Association. SB 33 would benefit Senator Hoagland's company and the association he serves with. START is treating environmental and community organizations as the enemy and using its political might to put forth this unnecessary, intimidating, and unconstitutional bill in its attempt to suppress the rights of citizens to peacefully protest the threat to our health.

Because lawmakers are not listening to the voices of their voters about the harmful effects on our land, people and our earth, we are protesting at infrastructure sites as the only way to demonstrate the frustration at the lack of oversight to this assault on our communities. Protests are a way to educate the public about the harms the oil and gas industry imposes upon unsuspecting communities. To take away our freedom of speech and right to assemble through this bill is oppressive, dangerous and violates our constitutional rights.

Senate Bill 33 is a bad bill. It's another in a very long line of Republican actions which lead me to believe that the State of Ohio is functioning as a safe harbor for unregulated Oil and Gas companies, while sacrificing its citizen's health and welfare.

Please vote against this industry backed, unnecessary and repressive bill.

