

Dear Senator Eklund.

I write to you in opposition to SB 33, a bill only intended to squelch environmental advocacy, so essential at this time of accelerating climate chaos. The legislation is clearly meant to intimidate individuals and non-profit organizations that organize people to speak out against assaults by the oil and gas industry against our communities, climate, and public health. It is unnecessary since trespass is already covered by Ohio law. It violates due process by arbitrarily – with no definition- singling out certain infrastructure that it merely labels, with no justification or definition, as “critical.” It thus targets people and even more so organizations deemed merely as supporting actions at these arbitrarily labeled sites for unfair extra punishment. SB 33 is a violation of due process, and is clearly intended to chill dissent, a fundamental violation of First Amendment rights. I urge you not to let this dangerous bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Ivars Balkits  
Athens, Ohio