



Before the Senate Judiciary Committee
Written Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 250
June 5, 2018

Chairman Bacon, Vice Chair Dolan, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Rob Eshenbaugh and I am testifying on behalf of multiple clients that we represent at Capitol Advocates. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer proponent testimony in support of SB 250.

For the past several months, I have organized an informal large and diverse coalition of companies and trade associations that are supportive of this bill. We have worked with the Sponsor of the bill and other interested parties to make changes to this bill which are manifested in the new substitute version. The substitute bill is even more narrowly tailored than the "As Introduced" version to aptly apply to current threats to our state's most critical infrastructure.

As you heard previously in testimony given by the Sponsor, unfortunately this bill is necessary as water treatment facilities, telecommunications facilities, pipelines, and energy operations have experienced an increase in threats to operations with various levels of consequence. Harmful actions like turning valves on a pipeline or damaging equipment during construction of critical infrastructure facilities put the public's safety at risk. Passage of this bill by this distinguished body will send a message to these outlaws that such threats and actions will not be tolerated in Ohio and that organizations willing to sponsor these activities will be held responsible.

The industries represented in our informal coalition make communication possible for emergency services and provide energy to power homes, hospitals and police stations. Trucks and railroads transport essential products to Ohioans every day and water treatment facilities serve water to millions of people in our state. Increasing penalties on a civil and criminal basis for individuals, and organizations that pay individuals, to impact the essential operations here in Ohio will ensure those behaviors are punished or fined appropriately. Furthermore, such penalties and fines will serve as a deterrent for anyone thinking about committing such sabotage.

I urge your support and swift passage of SB 250 for the foregoing reasons.