

Testimony of Elizabeth Hixon:

SB250 is an attack on Ohio citizen's constitutional right to assemble and to protest, which is granted and protected by the First Amendment. Peaceful, organized protests and voicing dissent for projects that threaten the health of Ohioans and wildlife is a patriotic duty. If the state cares for public safety and health, why ignore the requests for higher regulation standards to protect our water, air, and soil quality? There is clearly conflict of interest between the state of Ohio and oil and gas industries. I do not forget when Ohio State Troopers were sent to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. What other motive is there to create added punishments on behalf of corporations, for actions granted protection by the First Amendment? There is already state laws against destruction and vandalism of property. Adding security and additional punishments for exercising the First Amendment, at the taxpayers expense, is in direct violation of constitutional rights and a neglectful use of taxpayer dollars.

On another point as to why this bill is unnecessary, I ask you, who do you go to when you break your leg? The professionals, right? You trust doctors who've studied science and contracted high rates of student debt to prove their knowledge. Science decides how to diagnose and mend a broken bone. Not only that, but science has proven through the study by the UN IPCC, that we have 12 years to divest from environmental degradation practices, such as fossil fuels and choose the path supporting renewable energy. SB250 will impact the ability for us to choose an alternative path if taxpayers sink further resources into dirty energy projects, versus following the science and investing in clean energy solutions. SB250 does not explicitly secure Ohioans a thriving future 12 years from now, nor 12 years after that, or 12 years after that.

Finally, the invaders of North America encroached on and stole land from the Mingo, Shawnee, Miami, and Delaware Nations of Ohio in the name of a crown and profit by way of surveyors and traders. Our ancestors called this Manifest Destiny. 500 years later, we call this Eminent Domain, and government takes private property in the name of "critical infrastructure," to be sold back to the public as dirty energy and added security for pipelines, fracking, and injection sites. This is not a green deal for Ohio citizens, nor a deal at all. What Ohioans need now, is a government that upholds and protects the Constitutional right to assemble and protest laid out in the Bill of Rights.

Eminent domain-stealing private property rights to build critical infrastructure=our ancestors did this to native people

Chairman-senator bacon