

Carolyn Harding  
OHSB33 - in opposition

I love this state. I shouldn't. So many things I hold dear are being taken away by you, Ohio State lawmakers and Governors Kasich and DeWine.

I grew up in Worthington, the middle of 5 daughters, in a home on the ridge of Rush Creek, next to Harding Hospital and the church community of my family. I was privileged. I even had a horse of my own.

My grandparents bought a lake home on Lake Erie, at Lakeside. We drove up 23 and Rt 4 through Bucyrus through miles and miles of corn fields with our extended family. We would bike, swim, eat sweet corn and peaches. But the lake and our wooden Lyman boat was my joy, although in the 60's there were so many dead fish, we had to ski around them. Then the Lake got healthier in the 80's. But now the lake is full of toxic blue green algae from excessive petro chemicals, glyphosate, factory farm manure, abnormally heavy rains. Lake Erie is drowning.

I got to go to college, became an actor in NYC - never made it to Broadway - I started dreaming about cornfields. Riding my horse through harvested rows, riding to the lake through shoulder high Cornfields, hiking through frozen corn rows as a teen, next to the Mohican River.

I came back to Ohio in my 30's, happy to discover Columbus had an art scene, a theatre scene, an organic farmers market scene, and I dove in.

I formed a production company, where I created original theatrical performances, performed and taught improv acting.

Got married to an OSU grad, and we have two kids.

I still act. But for the past ten years I've become an Activist. You see the corn fields that I rode in, drove through to the lake and dreamed of, are being injected with a toxic, radioactive liquid waste from fracking. 13 injection wells in our, the state house's water supply. This liquid waste is full of endocrine disrupters, sex hormone disrupters, so much so that a stream where Frack Waste was dumped - spawned fish that developed both male and female sex organs. Full of Neuro toxins, carcinogens, stuff You'd fight to protect your kid from.

3 miles from here, there's an active permit to process potentially highly radioactive frack drill cuttings. Radium 226 & 228 is in the shale, its highly water soluble and these particular radionuclides are slow seeking bone carcinogens, linked to breast cancer, bone cancer, and leukemia. Deadly lechate.

Mick Luber has a new gas pipeline running through his organic farm. He tried to fight it, but you, Senator Neihaus, Governor Kasich and Dick Cheney took away his right to stop it. My friend Kathi Jones has a compressor station a few miles from her home near. She's forced to breath toxic air that you legislated, for "jobs and energy independence". She tried every legal way to stop it, and you all voted that she couldn't.

Now the PTTGlobal Cracker Plant -more accurate - Petro Chemical industrial complex is in the works. It's funded by Thai and South Korean investors and yeah, they're making tiny plastic pellets. And by the way Bexley just banned plastic bags, cause as you might know, they don't break down for a good while, and our oceans are full of floating islands of discarded single use plastic. We're drowning in plastic crap that we can't recycle.

While you, with former governor Kasich's JobsOhio's funding are going gang busters with frack rigs, toxic waste holding ponds, a matrix of pipelines cross crossing our Roundup Ready corn and soy bean fields, compressor stations belching invisible toxins that impact newborns with birth defects, and one internationally-funded cracker plant in the works, with five or more coming. And oh yeah all that gas piped to the "Appalachian Storage Hub" is gonna be stored along the Ohio River, the drinking water source for 5 million people downstream, in salt caves? And what other cavern or abandoned oil wells or huge space for highly explosive gas?

SB 33 could make a lot of money for folks in the security business, to put moms like me and her and Grandpas like him and maybe your own kid or teen who's worried about climate and ecological crisis, in handcuffs, in prison and slap us with a Felony and a stiff Fee.

Some of you didn't bargain on making these deadly decisions when you became a representative, a public servant. But now you vote, even if you don't understand the repercussions of this ALEC template law, that oil & gas and your house and senate leaders assure you is a good idea.

I'm not naive. I ask that you see what Ohio lawmakers are doing to Ohio in the name of jobs and energy independence.

When you legislate for the polluters, We will dissent. We will Fight for our kids, for our kids kids, and their kids kids.

Dissent is a Right Not a Crime.

Stop - Vote No on SB33.