

Dr. Terry Engelder, a developer and proponent of modern oil and gas operations, used the term “sacrifice zones” to describe the people and communities whose local residential environments are expropriated and pillaged by state promoted toxic heavy industries. This so-called critical infrastructure is metastasizing across our state in the form of fracking operations transforming billions of gallons of drinking water into unrecoverable toxic waste, multi-billion dollar cracker plant processing centers generating carcinogenic gasses, leaking volatile pipeline networks, and waste disposal wells injecting millions of barrels of poison beneath our aquifers.

The working people of Ohio must risk the lifetime investment they have made in their homes. They must allow serious hazards to the health and safety of their families and all those they cherish. They must reconcile themselves to being an expendable population whose rights, independence, and security can be disregarded. Everything that gives their lives quality and meaning must be subordinate to business interests from other states and countries.

This is what current Ohio legislators are trying to enforce with Senate Bill 33. Honest working class people and their families who were meant to be shielded and protected by Ohio law will now see the law used as a weapon against them. We already have laws protecting private property. But the oil and gas industry will brook no popular opposition to their economic and political agenda.

In Ohio, if someone with lots of money and power needs what you have in order to get more money and power, they will be allowed to take it. And, if Ohioans organize to oppose that policy, our legislators will pass special laws threatening them with felonies and financial ruin. And if you oppose those legislators they will say, to quote Senator Hoagland, that they are passing these laws to “protect their mother.”

Senators, unless your mother is living next to a fracking well that she didn't want or watching a giant pipe bomb full of explosive hazardous compounds being built across her land or watching a cracker plant poison the air in her neighborhood or waiting for a line of waste tankers backed up on her highway, then she is not the victim here.

Next month we will celebrate Veteran's Day in remembrance of all the blood that has been spilled in the name of democracy. If you truly honor the sacrifices that were made do not impede the rights of people to assemble and redress their grievances. The laws as they exist are more than adequate to deter any malicious intent by misguided individuals. - Nick Teti

*I am including a link to **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Summary for Policymakers** with my testimony:*

<https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

According to the report our ever increasing carbon emissions are driving us over the 1.5° C temperature rise that climate science has warned we must not exceed if we are to avoid catastrophic changes to the way our climate works. We are already experiencing escalating rates and intensity of extreme destructive weather; raging wild fires that are leveling West Coast communities, farms drowning in the Midwest due to devastating flooding from unremitting rain, hurricanes that scour civilization from Caribbean islands and threaten huge swaths of our own continent, extended droughts in the Southwest, and coastal cities under the threat of rising sea levels from melting polar ice caps.

We can mitigate some of the most serious damage to our children's future only if we act decisively within the next 12 years to reduce the amount of carbon we are releasing into the air by 45%. This is a fact based on laws that go beyond the scope of the ones you play with in these chambers. I'm talking about the laws of physics. We are approaching a point at which we are going to lose the ability to effect change to the forces of nature we have unleashed. Due to our short-sighted indifference our Earth is beginning to transform into a different kind of planet where the predictable nurturing cycles that have allowed life to evolve, adapt, and flourish over the millennia are becoming ever more erratic. I challenge you to go on YouTube and investigate the science discussed in the following link regarding the issue of Arctic methane: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOkfOLbSE6o>. You will see that as a consequence of the warming we have fostered in the Polar Regions our planet is beginning to produce this greenhouse gas in vast quantities and with apocalyptic potential.

Meanwhile, the business plan of the oil and gas industry is to take all the carbon on the planet and put it into the atmosphere. If you do not stop them you will turn this planet into Venus. Every time you follow policies that impede the use of renewable energy and enable the continued burning of carbon you are facilitating the industry that is killing us.

Nick Teti
Warsaw, OH
Testimony SB 33
9/7/19
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My name is Nick Teti from Warsaw, Ohio. I was born right after WW II. I grew up in a working class neighborhood in Akron. All of our fathers were veterans and war heroes. When they returned from the war they did not form private armies to oppress their fellow citizens and undercut the rights and values they had just defended at the risk of their own lives and the sacrifice of so many others. Those who found opportunity in being warriors remained in the military and had honorable careers serving our nation in that capacity. Most put the war behind them. They did not make war on school teachers, farmers, doctors, the clergy, factory workers and other citizens who used their Constitutional Right to dissent. Many of them joined unions and used their freedom of assembly to improve their wages, their hours, their working conditions, and their terms of employment. They did this by disrupting the day to day operations of industry with strikes to achieve economic justice and build a strong, prosperous, and secure middle class. The nation not only survived; it thrived.

My father was one of these workers. He was an assembler at the Babcock and Wilcox Company in Barberton, Ohio who worked alongside engineers building nuclear reactor cores for our atomic submarines that deterred any first-strike nuclear aggression during the Cold War. This manufacturing operation was never defined as Critical Infrastructure despite the fact that the entire Western NATO Alliance and the nuclear war military strategy of Mutually Assured Destruction depended on the weapons they made. Critical Infrastructure designation apparently is reserved for factories that make plastic bags. My father was also a union steward. He was on the front lines of the job actions that his union undertook against the company; just as he was always on the front lines during his military service.

He first served as a nose gunner in a B-17 bomber where he was wounded in the leg. He recovered in time for D-Day and landed on Omaha Beach. There he was assigned the dangerous duty of leading truck convoys of gasoline and ammunition through contested territory to supply General Patton's Tanks who were the tip of the spear into Nazi Germany.

I wonder how Ohio would respond if this Italian immigrant, who gave so much to his state and nation, led a strike action at a fracking complex or a cracker plant. Would he become a felon for stopping production at these facilities and supporting the interests of working class Americans?

The last time Ohio Politicians conflated legitimate dissent with criminal behavior it resulted in one of the greatest tragedies I witnessed in my lifetime. I saw young nineteen year old troops, who had joined the Ohio National Guard Reserve to avoid having to burn Vietnamese villages, march across the Kent State Campus with bayonets and fire into a crowd of 19 year old college students who were in the area of a rally protesting the burning of Vietnamese villages.

It is easy to start a war. It is easy to create an enemy. Be careful who you define as your enemy. The people of Ohio are not insurgents. This is a war that will be fought with private mercenary armies. How will you control these corporate guns for hire? How will you make sure they are not conscripting gun nuts or racists? I urge you to kill this bill before you start killing Ohioans.

Nick Teti
Coshocton, Ohio
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This testimony is directed towards those members of the Ohio legislature who have been promoting or supporting legislation written by The American Legislative Exchange Council. I urge those members of the public who are present

today to use Sourcewatch.org and help shine some sunlight on the dangerous laws and the politicians threatening our families and our democracy.

Senators, you see before you today a gathering of people who are opposed to policies that you have implemented in their communities. They do not agree with your agenda because your policies are risking and causing harm to their health and essential resources, degrading their quality of life, depriving them of the enjoyment and use of both their privately owned and communal property, and inducing catastrophic changes to our climate systems by changing the chemical composition of our planet's atmosphere. I stand with them today to let you know that I am opposed to SB 33 and the attempt to intimidate

Dissent is the ultimate expression of individual liberty. It drove the founding fathers to write the Declaration of Independence when all avenues of redress to government injustice were closed to them. History teaches that repression may work for a while but it is a pressure cooker that blows up into social movements and ultimately revolution. As you continue to subordinate human rights to corporate policy and self-interest your disdain for representative government reveals a broken ideology that was soundly rejected but only after a conflagration that raged across continents and leveled cities. Listen to the following quotes and examine your own actions in resurrecting the tenets of this philosophy:

These words are from screeds by the founders of Fascism; Benito Mussolini and Giovanni Gentile. This is their perspective on the rights of individual citizens under their governance.

"The Fascist conception of life stresses the importance of the State and accepts the individual only in so far as his interests coincide with the State. The Fascist conception of the State is all embracing; outside of it no human or spiritual values can exist, much less have value."

Contrast these sentiments to this document that speaks to the relationship of individual liberty and the power of the state.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

"From the consent of the governed"; Not from the dictates of corporate power, Not by the permission of the state, Not from a group of legislators who allow Ohio's legislation to be written by a small cabal of campaign donors with narrow interests that preclude the common good. I cannot fathom how you can pass legislation that is so amenable to a philosophy that stands in such stark contrast to the democratic ideals defined by Jefferson in The Declaration of Independence.

I oppose Senate Bill 33.

The crux of SB 33:

1) You are using draconian penalties to exclusively target opponents of government policy towards corporate donors- This legislation is all the more insidious when viewed in the context of gerrymandering, culling registered voters from the voter rolls, and the voter suppression efforts engaged in by Ohio's Attorneys General such as engineering long lines and wait times in selected districts by closing polling places and limiting the number of machines and voting booths. Taken together they are a concerted attack on the democratic process.

2) You are assigning guilt to entire groups expressing opposition to a government policy in response to an individual's independent action.

3) You are criminalizing dissent, using vaguely defined transgressions that you can interpret as felonies towards a select group of citizens. You are taking this action to protect a heavily subsidized industry whose lobbyists have been institutionalized as permanent fixtures in your legislative body. They will remain in place stifling opposition to their policies long after you are term limited out to throw their hammers around at a new class of elected officials. Although this abdication to corporate power has been normalized and accepted by this assembly it is corrupt to the core.

I believe you are crossing a line.

You seriously need to examine whether you can continue to fulfill your obligations to abide by the Constitutional imperatives placed upon you as office holders serving the people in a representative democracy. You can't continue to propose corporate dictated legislation in defiance of popular will. Who do you represent; ALEC or the people of Ohio?