



THE VOICE OF OHIO'S HIGH-TECH CHEMISTRY COMMUNITY...  
MAKING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL OHIOANS.

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## **Testimony of Ohio Chemistry Technology Council in Support of S.B. 33**

**Bryan Bennett, OCTC Director of Government Affairs**

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member

Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is

Bryan Bennett. I am the Director of Government Affairs at the Ohio

Chemistry Technology Council. Thank you for the opportunity to

testify in support of Senate Bill 33 (SB 33).

OCTC is the leading advocate for Ohio's chemical industry. We are the

second largest manufacturing industry in the State of Ohio. Ohio, in

turn, is the sixth largest chemical manufacturing state in the United

States. In Ohio, the chemical technology industry employs over 44,000

people, pays an average wage of over \$80,000, and provides

approximately \$1.3 billion in federal, state and local taxes annually.

SB 33 would protect critical infrastructure from trespassers and

willful damage. Ohio law already prohibits criminal trespass,



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aggravated trespass, and criminal mischief to property, but OCTC believes that increased penalties are needed to protect critical infrastructure due to the damage that could be caused to not only the facilities, but the surrounding area if a person or entity were to commit criminal mischief to critical infrastructure. The safety of our facilities is a major concern for Ohio's chemical industry and we believe the increased penalties for willfully committing these acts will serve as a further deterrent to individuals and organizations wishing to do harm to critical infrastructure.

This bill is of interest to OCTC members because damage to chemical facilities can lead to grave consequences that threaten the public's health and safety. The chemical industry recognized the seriousness of this issue in 2007 and worked with Congress to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to pass regulations known as the *Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards* (CFATS).

Under CFATS, the Department of Homeland Security works with chemical facilities to ensure that they have security measures in place to protect the facilities and the public in the event of a terrorist attack. While SB 33 does not focus on preventing terrorist attacks against chemical facilities, the underlying concern is the same. When chemical facilities are willfully damaged, there is a real risk to public health and safety. SB 33 provides a deterrent to such criminal conduct. It therefore has the strong support of OCTC and its members, and we urge this committee to vote in favor of the bill.



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For Ohio's chemical industry and indeed the whole industry nationwide, safety and security are the most paramount concerns. It's why in addition to CFATS, we also work closely with other regulators, including the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. Furthermore, across the state the industry has robust community advisory panels (CAP). These CAP's bring together community leaders, first responders and individuals who reside around the facility. CAP's meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of importance to the community and the facility.

Once again, I would like to convey OCTC's support of SB 33 and would be happy to answer any questions.