



Before the Senate Judiciary Committee  
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 33  
March 20, 2019

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Zachary Frymier and I am the Director of Energy and Environmental Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 33 (SB 33).

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and we represent nearly 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

We are pleased to support strengthening protections for critical infrastructure. While fortunately Ohio has not faced the sort of disruptions seen in other jurisdictions, taking this proactive step would protect Ohio's economy and improve our business climate.

This infrastructure is vital to a well-functioning economy. Retailers, hospitals, schools, and homes all rely on electricity, safe drinking water, telecommunications networks and the efficient transportation of products that this infrastructure provides.

Ohio's abundant natural resources, such as Lake Erie and the Ohio River, lead to ports and rail facilities that businesses rely on. The continued growth of Ohio's economy depends on businesses being assured that capital investments in infrastructure in our state are safe from physical damage.

Deterring and punishing those who seek to tamper or destroy these, or any piece of critical infrastructure, is necessary to allow job growth to continue and to protect the communities and residents. Tampering with this infrastructure could lead to disruptions in the services and comforts that have come to define life in a modern economy.

SB 33 strengthens protections for critical infrastructure to better safeguard public safety and the environment and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce urges your support.