

Public Testimony against SB 33
Greg Pace
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing
March 20th, 2019

Chairman Ecklund and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Greg Pace, I reside in Columbus.

My energy and environmental activism began in 2005, when I was studying the peak oil phenomenon with the Central Ohio Relocalization Effort - C.O.R.E. There were three concepts that peak oil showed me:

- One, that we were running out of cheap oil obtained through conventional extraction methods.
- Two, that we would use riskier and more expensive methods to get every last drop of obtainable oil out of the ground
- And Three, that the data and evidence undeniably show more every day that human-induced climate change is occurring and being witnessed as we speak. This third concept, that climate change, largely resulting from putting carbon into the air, completely trumped the first two.

In 2017 in Ohio, pipelines have spilled multiple times, so egregiously, that in two instances, the Ohio EPA and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission did something they almost never do ... they held up the Rover Pipeline and Energy Transfer Partners, from continuing to ravage our countryside after dozens of spills, the worst which dumped more than 2 million gallons of drilling muds into a wetland. The EPA made ETP clean it up, but unfortunately, they illegally dumped the waste into two quarries, and this resulted in much of the city of Canton's water supply being dirtied. What's even worse, is that it was determined that diesel fuel was mixed in with the slurry. But the pipeline continued. In early 2018, the Rover was stopped by FERC, because more than 200,000 gallons of bentonite drilling slurry was lost down a sinkhole somewhere. The difference between this pipeline and the three spills that ETP caused during the laying of the infamous Dakota Access Pipeline out west, is that in Ohio, a city's water supply was actually contaminated as a result of ETP illegally dumping their spill cleanup into the quarries. Another difference between Dakota Access out west and Ohio, is that out west private mercenaries were heralded for battering peaceful protestors for trying to protect their water, and in Ohio not much happened to make the news about protesters.

Now Ohio legislators indicate that you want to protect "critical infrastructure" from disruption by protesters. I will begin by saying that this is a template bill through the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC. That in itself, as those of you on this committee who are members of ALEC know, signals that SB 33 is strongly influenced by the billionaire-boys-club in this country, to keep the canaries in the coal mine quiet. They don't want another Standing Rock, where people with perfectly righteous intentions and who have educated themselves to the very real dangers of the activities they protest against, are seen to be violated in every which way by the very mercenaries that Senator Hoagland, and many others of you will promote.

We refuse to listen to what we have known for over two generations, and which is playing out very closely, and even in worse ways, to what they said back then ... that we will have hell to pay with nature

and our livelihoods for our dumping of hundreds of millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere each year. If we don't change course very, very soon, we may not have a food distribution system that keeps us fed in 100 years. Because of methane emissions, natural gas extraction using today's system places more green house gases in the atmosphere than the use of coal for our electricity. This has been known since two reports came out in 2012, one from Cornell University, and the other from University of Colorado in Boulder in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These reports have been backed up repeatedly by more current reports over the past six years.

Ohio has to stop allowing the oil & gas industry to mortgage our future on this planet. Treating the messengers as criminals is trying to solve our problems on the wrong end of the stick. The real "critical infrastructure" that all human beings on Earth must have, will pay more dearly as this paradigm continues.

Thank you