

## Written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 33

SB 33 clearly ends 1st amendment rights and political free speech when it comes to protests about gas, oil, and fracking accidents, leaks, explosions, fires, and environmental degradation. I see no need for this law.

Ohio law already has laws against trespassing, vandalism, and arson which protect property. As a former volunteer fire fighter I know about the crime of arson and know about the law against it.

Senate Bill 33 comes from model legislation designed by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to repel protests of oil and gas industry projects such as fracking installations, compressor stations, and pipelines. Rather the places we live need protection from these often harmful gas and oil industries, which befoul air, water and soil, leaving behind a mess for the Super Fund to clean up.

The focus of Senate Bill 33 is groups that are opposing the oil and gas industry in Ohio. The law penalizes organizations that support and coordinate protests of any kind of fracking activities. This bill acts like a "wrecking ball" against any group that says, the oil and gas industry is causing us harm.

Senate Bill 33 enables the oil and gas industries to hire private security firms, and uncover police to instigate violence or harm to property, and then to accuse the organizers of the protest of the violence or harm. As a Nation, we saw plenty of this activity as companies sought and were effective at breaking unions at protests of low pay and terrible working conditions from 1890 through 1940, until unions were recognized in the law.

We the People of Ohio need protections from trespass, vandalism, arson and to protect the public health which is caused by the oil and gas industries in their activity of fracking. But nothing of that protection is offered in SB 33. The companies hide behind being Limited Liability Corporations (LLC's) so face no consequences in the regular environmental assaults foisted upon us. SB 33 is a bill that is written from the perspective of a "wish list" of the oil and gas industry to mute all Ohio citizens, even though we see "Beautiful Ohio" and its people being assaulted by this industry.

A random list of facilities which have no obvious connections to one another is included in SB 33, i.e. telephone and communications, airports, and manufacturing enterprises. The purpose is clearly to disguise those who will benefit from this legislation in Ohio, who are the owners and operators of gas, fracking and pipeline industries.

SB 33 want to eliminate those people and their organizations which oppose the oil and gas industry in Ohio. With their money and influence (they are used together in the State Legislature) these industries expect "We the People" to "bow and scrape" to their wishes. They want the Legislature to become the Legislature in the novel by George Orwell, 1984, which make lies, the truth; and turns narratives, upside down by rewriting the "news of the day" to be what they want. What I resent most is their attempts at "intimidation", a threat of putting citizens in jails, paying legal and court fees. So, are "We the People" going to get calls in the middle of the night, threatening arrests for planning or attending a rally? Are we going to have to look over our shoulders constantly to see who is following us? That's the fear and intimidation this bill hopes to create.

I am especially upset that you, the chair of the Judicial Committee, have limited testimony from opponents on SB 33. It seems that the people don't matter as you "count noses" getting ready for the vote.

So, I hope you will vote against Senate Bill 33, and bury it deep in the earth.

Sincerely,

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P.S. I attempted to include the completed Judiciary Committee Witness form with this testimony, but the form would not copy onto this page as either a jpeg or pdf. All information from that form is above.