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Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee

Chair Senator John Eklund

4/8/2019

Senator Eklund and Judiciary Committee members,

I hereby submit testimony in **opposition** to Senate Bill 33 as a constituent residing in Athens county.

I would like to say that the majority of people do not choose protest for any reason other than the regulatory and political structure does not address their concerns.

This oppositional protest is often an effort to encourage entities to consider, examine and evaluate the concerns of the protester and hopefully engage in consideration and evaluation. I have exercised the right many times. Dissent is a key component of Democracy. As a 63 year old person, I believe it is my civic duty to exercise this right. This is the foundational right of all citizens.

**The bill seeks to discourage public participation guaranteed by the constitution**

The fines and penalties imposed in SB 33 are anathema to free speech and protest, set forth by the constitution. This bill therefore in effect, violates the constitution and places corporate power and wealth above the rights of citizens. SB 33 is designed to prevent protest activities that have not occurred in Ohio.

**Trespass**

SB 33 addresses trespassing of industrial infrastructure. This is unnecessary -- there are already Ohio laws regulating trespassing. With this bill the legislature appears not to recognize Ohio's existing laws that prosecute anyone who trespasses on or damages infrastructure.

**The bill supports industry at the expense of the common good**

The bill directly incorporates "model" legislation drafted by the Koch Brothers funded American Legislative Exchange Council ("ALEC") which calls this proposal "The Critical Infrastructure Protection Act." The ALEC organization brings together corporate lobbyists and conservative state legislators to draft bills promoting a corporate agenda in statehouses nationwide.

It is your duty, as legislators, entrusted to represent the public good and future of the public good to oppose substitute SB 33 in all forms.

Respectfully submitted,

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