

**Testimony Opposing SB 33**  
**Submitted by Glenn R. Campbell, April 21, 2019**

Ohio Senate Bill 33, the anti-protest bill, is a dangerous assault on civil liberties and free speech.

Trespass, which is already covered by Ohio law, is penalized by this bill with felony charges and high fines if the trespass is against so-called "critical infrastructure," including corporation-owned pipelines (even if they are on someone's own property) and corporation-owned oil and gas wells, and Homeland Security sites.

The bill is clearly intended to intimidate individuals and nonprofit organizations that organize people to speak out against assaults by oil and gas companies and their infrastructure against our communities, climate, and public health.

Under this bill, organizations can be held liable for others' actions through guilt by association, with 10 times greater penalties than the penalties that individuals will receive. This can only be meant to silence and squelch environmental advocacy, which is more crucial than ever at this time of accelerating climate chaos.

I am particularly outraged that this legislation comes at a time when our planet is experiencing climate catastrophes brought about by corporate malfeasance and government indifference. It's these corporate and government activities that threaten and destroy lives and property, not the peaceful and selfless actions of individuals who practice climate disobedience.

SB 33 also stipulates that a person or organization who pays another person to cause damage to a critical infrastructure facility or "who pays the person's fines or damages in a civil action for damage caused to a critical infrastructure facility will be held vicariously liable for damage caused to a critical infrastructure facility (R.C. 2307.66(C))." This means that an individual or organization providing bail funds to support peaceful climate civil disobedience is subject to severe financial penalties and felony charges. This provision alone ought to make every elected official and the public oppose this insidious and terrifying proposal.

SB 33 is unnecessary, undemocratic, and anti-American. Its passage would set a horrendous precedent for selective repression of free speech that could easily be applied to other issues -- perhaps ones that you hold most dear. I implore you to oppose and kill this harmful bill that would at once squelch freedom of protest and actions intended to help protect our climate and public health. Please do the right thing for our democracy.

Vigilantly,  
Glenn R. Campbell, Citizen and Voter  
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