

Opponent Testimony – SB 33

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Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

Finally, the citizens of Ohio seem to be finding their voice. Too bad it didn't happen earlier. About 10 years ago, municipalities lost their right to block oil companies from drilling in their towns. Corporations have been laying the groundwork through legislation and rhetoric for quite some time now.

However, the increasingly thuggish response by corporations against U.S. citizens warrants attention from even the dullest among us. I've heard of multiple accounts of use of force in Standing Rock—a historically implemented stance of the powerful against marginalized people. Apparently, blatant efforts like these have to be mitigated when confronted with a more conventional crowd of folks like myself. Thus, the creation of SB 33.

Here is why SB 33 must be defeated:

☐☐ **The Bill is Unnecessary.** This legislation was drafted by the most powerful corporations in the United States, with their self-interests in mind. It is cookie cutter – one size fits all -- legislation that does not recognize Ohio's existing laws that prosecute anyone who trespasses on or damages infrastructure. The bill is an affront to Ohio citizens who respect private property.

☐ **The Bill Violates the US Constitution.** This legislation was drafted in response to Standing Rock and landowner protests against large pipeline projects – something that has never occurred here. It violates Ohioans' rights to free speech and free association, and labels those acts as crimes. The bill's vague language could entrap landowners with infrastructure on their property and paves the way for industry to use eminent domain for pipelines and power lines and to use language in this bill to claim landowners are "impeding" their commercial interests.

☐ **The Bill Threatens and Intimidates Ohio organizations** with \$100,000 dollar fines if they object to or "impede" certain private infrastructure or work with citizens exercising their free speech and association rights. Organizations could be held responsible for members whose actions they do not endorse or control.

The Bill Violates Ohio's Constitution. The bill violates the one bill one subject rule. The bill creates two separate and very distinct crimes: impeding critical infrastructure and critical infrastructure trespass.