

Dear Senator Eklund,

Please oppose Senate Bill 33. Fossil fuel extraction companies have resources ordinary citizens do not. They also do not share the susceptibility to harm that ordinary citizens do. Corporations do not get cancer. They do not need fresh water to sustain life. They are not vulnerable to radiation. And, unlike ordinary citizens, they are not held liable for the harm they cause others. We do not have a phalanx of lawyers or very deep pockets or shareholders to protect our interests. All we have is ourselves, our minds, our voices, our First Amendment.

This bill is anti-democratic and redundant, designed to protect the assets of fossil fuel industries, while intimidating and bankrupting conscientious objectors and their supporters. It does not address harm, including a serious drop in the property values of all landowners near their operations. This is theft and they should be required to compensate all landowners in the region for such loss as it is quite significant.

The political fallout of favoring one class of constituents over another will, in the end, be the fossil fuel (and possibly the Republic Party's) undoing because as harms become more and more evident with the passage of time, and as the polity become more and more alarmed by the world the predation of fossil fuel corporations is creating, and as more and more individuals develop health problems as a result of the Ohio legislature's favoring of one constituency over another, there will be a political backlash that you will not be able to control as you have to date, especially as the time of Republican gerrymandering is rapidly coming to a close.

Frankly, the time for fossil fuels is over. It has no future. It is not producing the wealth that the shareholders hoped for a multiplicity of reasons including their greed creating a glut. And the more draconian the laws you pass, the worse the backlash will become.

One wonders why these corporations feel the need to muzzle ordinary citizens, the neighbors of these operations, especially after the Ohio legislature and former governor muzzled their own State employees from voicing individual concerns about a variety of resources issues, including fracking and injection wells. Why muzzle the very employees whose job it is to protect the commonweal and environment on this issue?

Donald Trump will not be president for much longer. The next administration will be able to undo much of the damage he has done in two short years. I urge you to renew your familiarity with the philosophical underpinning of the constitution you have taken an oath to uphold and reject this bill, if only for practical reason of protecting your own political future. Of course, I would hope that although we have not met and probably never will you do care about my continuing survival but the Ohio government's actions to date do not give me much hope.

For the record, I have never participated in any of these actions but I do believe anyone who wishes to protest activity of their neighbor which harms them personally or financially has the right to do so. I am not aware of anyone actually harming an extraction company's property in a real and permanent manner. And I would ask why you do not extend this law, as I assume

you will ignore my letter, to individuals who trespass on my land and actually damage my property and steal wildlife from my land. Perhaps strengthening poaching laws would stop much of this illegal and dangerous behavior. But you don't seem to care much about that already illegal activity.

Why do you not include in this law strengthened legal and financial penalties when these corporations trespass on my land and harm my property, including my health and continued survival? Why such a on-sided bill?

In any case, everyone around here has been harmed by various actors in the fossil fuel extraction business. We've had pipelines explode, spewing tons of pollutants into the air. We have many injection wells, polluting our private property with carcinogenic chemicals and radiation. And they are using huge amounts of our water without compensating us for any of it. Eventually what water remains will be too contaminated to safely use. They are also destroying our roads because of the weight and the frequency of the brine trucks on small country roads that were not designed for such uses so now everyone in Ohio is being required to finance their operations with added gas taxes. The incidence of cancers locally has skyrocketed, especially thyroid cancer. I do not see anything in your bill requiring these predatory corporations compensate us for all these forms of trespass. If you are going to pass this bill, you need to address all these issues in it.

Sincerely,
Thelma Seto