

Chairman Eklund and members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Judith Trautman and I live in Toledo, OH. I wish to present opponent testimony to **SB 33**. I am a founding chair of the MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio and its initiative Greater Toledo Compassionate Community, as well as the Vice-Chair of the Social Justice Committee of First Unitarian Church of Toledo. I am writing out of my position at First Unitarian Church. Thank you for your time and attention to this very important legislation before you today.

Senate Bill 33 is unnecessary, intimidating, and unconstitutional in its attempt to suppress the rights of citizens in the name of protections for corporations and the newly created critical infrastructure named in this bill. Political speech is the most protected and revered of our rights under the first amendment. Clearly this bill is designed to suppress these rights. This bill if enacted will not survive judicial review. Current Ohio law covers penalties for criminal mischief or criminal trespass regardless of the facility or owner of property and applies penalties commensurate with the act.

This bill was created to frighten citizens who have become increasingly aware and vocal about the threats to their health, and their wellbeing as a result of the oil and gas industries' assault on the land and people of this state by extraction of oil and gas, injection of toxic radioactive waste from this extraction and the infrastructure increases of pipelines and gas compressor stations.

Our lawmakers will not listen to the voices of their constituents about the harmful effects on families and our earth and only look at data generated by computer models that reveal so called positive economic benefits from the oil and gas industry in our state. People are protesting in streets, the statehouse, the courthouses and at infrastructure sights as the only way they can demonstrate their frustration at this assault on our communities. Protests are the one way to educate the public about the harms the oil and gas industry imposes upon unsuspecting communities. To take away our freedom of speech and right to assemble through the intimidation tactics of this bill is oppressive, dangerous and violates the time-honored freedom of speech and assembly, rights protected by the Constitution.

The concept of making "organizations" criminals by their support and association of concerned citizens is outrageous! Where should citizens turn when their lawmakers ignore them and support corporate entities rather than protect individuals? They turn to organizations that have information, who ARE willing to help organize and inform people on their rights and how to fight back against a government who will not listen or help.

Senate Bill 33 is bad legislation! The people of Ohio expect their elected lawmakers to reject it.