

Dear Chairman Eklund and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Mary Ellen Berger and I am a resident of Columbus. I appreciate the time to give opponent testimony on Senate Bill 33.

It is very clear that the intent of SB33 is to intimidate concerned citizens and non-profit groups, and to discourage us from expressing our opposition to gas pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure in Ohio. This is wrong. We already have laws and penalties for criminal mischief and criminal trespass in Ohio. We should not be threatened with felony charges or excessive fines when exercising our First Amendment rights. It is an assault on our freedom of speech and right to assemble.

The timing of this bill is not a coincidence. There is a push by the fossil fuel and chemical industries, along with local, state and federal politicians to build out a massive petrochemical hub in the Ohio Valley. This would exponentially expand fracking in our state, along with the construction of hundreds of miles of pipelines, several plastic production facilities and the construction of gas storage sites under the Ohio River. This river is the water supply for millions of people. We would become the sacrifice zone for industries and other countries to profit on gas and plastic exports. Chinese investors have pledged over \$84 billion dollars to this project.

Residents in Ohio have already seen environmental destruction in their communities and farmland from from fracking and related gas infrastructure. We've had earthquakes, water contamination, leaks at pipelines, accidents and high amounts of methane released which is 86x more potent than CO2 as a greenhouse gas. None of this is sustainable - for Ohio or our planet.

The IPCC report was grim- we have less than 12 years to stop catastrophic climate change. We need to take bold action now. If not, we will see more severe droughts and floods, rising seas, failing crops, extreme weather and deadly wildfires, and millions of climate refugees. What is more important- corporate profits and greed or the continued existence of human civilization? The young climate activists protesting around the world get it. They are fighting for their lives. So are we.

We expect you, as our legislators, to uphold our constitution and to protect those you took an oath to serve. I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 33, and to listen to your constituents. We want clean, renewable energy and "critical infrastructure" for solar and wind - not pipelines, plastic and more pollution. We want a future for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Ellen Berger
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