

April 30, 2019

Senator John Eklund, chair  
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee  
[eklund@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:eklund@ohiosenate.gov)

To: Chair Eklund and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee

Testimony in opposition to Ohio SB 33.

Ohio SB 33 would criminalize public dissent. It is an authoritarian assault on democracy. People are protesting pipelines and extreme energy as a threat to civilization. Wouldn't some caution about inundation of coastal cities and devastating floods, droughts and hurricanes be in order? Especially when what needs to be done to alleviate climate chaos has positive all-around benefits? Some of us do not worry about loss of megaprofits of corporations that have somehow been given ownership what sits below the ground.

SB 33 is also an attempt to link individuals to organizations, and then to put those groups organizing dissent out of business through the expensive litigation.

Money talks. This bill is being brought to us by global megacorporations whose extraction and burning of fossil fuels is threatening the world with climate devastation through continued, even escalated, burning of fossil fuels. The 1% speaks loudly.

With our futures threatened, do our elected officials not see a need for protest? Do Republicans not believe that climate change is happening? Or if they now belatedly do, do they still not think that humans are not causing it?

Does anyone see an endgame here? At best, the world will hit a brick wall as these resources are depleted. Already, conventionally-extracted fossil fuels have been largely dissipated from many countries including the United States, whose oil production peaked in the 1970s.

What is left now is extreme energy: Deepwater drilling for oil, deep well horizontal hydrofracking for natural gas (which is vastly different from the original vertical fracking) and mountaintop removal coal mining. This assault is devastating our land and threatening our water supply with permanent contamination. Right now, liquid fracking waste with 600 chemicals is being brought to Ohio from other states, due to Ohio's lax laws, and is being injected below ground around the state. See the National Geographic article [Fracking Water: It's Just So Hard to Clean.](#)

Have you heard of Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish student who started a worldwide movement of students sitting outside their schools on Fridays? They say they are doing this so their generation will have a future.

There are plenty of laws against trespassing and destruction of property. Demonstrators are already being harassed by fossil fuel interests, law enforcement and private entities hired by the oil and gas industry. PR firms are hired to write stories labeling nonviolent protestors as terrorists. Fire hoses have been used to douse the nonviolent Native American Water Protectors in below zero weather.

I have a right to protest, because my grandchildren have a right to a livable home. Why not make a law protecting the rights of the protesters?

Thank you.

Patricia Ann Marida  
Columbus