

Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee chair John Eklund,

Please find attached my "Witness form" for the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee with my written statement in opposition to HB 33 at the bottom of the form. I have also included my testimony below.

Testimony: Vote NO on SB 33. This bill is meant to chill citizen dissent and specifically designed to limit the free speech and right to assemble of the people of the State of Ohio at a broadly defined range of "critical infrastructure facilities" which is specifically related to fossil fuel corporations. It raises the penalties for criminal mischief and other misdemeanors to the level of felonies at these facilities when there are already laws in place to prosecute these offenses.

This bill violates the right of people to peaceably assemble, to bring public attention to health and safety concerns, and to protest fossil fuel activities and installations which have the capacity to impact the health and safety, quality of life, and activities of daily living of Ohio citizens. This bill curtails the ability to observe installations which critically affect the quality of air and water and the environment in the state of Ohio at a time when environmental impacts are crucial to our global future.

This bill makes criminal public assembly and the observation and reporting of activities or installations that may harm the public health and safety. This bill makes criminal sharing concerns and information related to the public health and safety.

This bill criminalizes photography or videoing of activities and installations in plain view and criminalizes making the resulting photographs/video available to the public.

This bill makes it a criminal offense to "text" regarding events or activities which may impact the public health and safety.

This bill targets non-profit, grassroots citizen organizations made up of volunteer, concerned citizens who take their time to educate themselves and volunteer their time and talents to participate in the democratic process which may include peaceful assembly and peaceful civil disobedience, as well as education of the public to the impacts of activities and installations of the fossil fuel industry. Grassroots organization operating on a shoestring may be levied with fines of up to 10 X the amount of an individual citizen, fining grassroots organizations up to \$100,000. Grass roots organizations may be fined based on the actions of one citizen whose actions they cannot control, and that the grassroots organization does not state responsibility for.

Ohio must not pass legislation to limit citizen's constitutional rights or intimidate citizens freedom of speech or curtail activism.

Ohio must not limit the constitutional rights of Ohio citizens at a time our government is rolling back air and water quality standards and endangering our environment and air and water quality.

Ohio must not make criminal public discourse in the form of the written word, statements, photos, or videos regarding impacts to public health and safety.

The constitutional freedoms of the citizens of the State of Ohio must not be limited to the benefit of fossil fuel corporations.

Vote NO on HB 33.

Respectfully submitted,

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