

Opponent Testimony:

I have a dream. I dream that Ohio has a legislature that works to insure that Ohioans have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. Every year the Ohio River is rated the dirtiest river in America. Every year Ohio's air is rated either the first, second or third dirtiest in America. In my dream, Ohio's legislature would write and defend laws that punish those that attempt to use Ohio as a sacrifice zone as they extract its resources for overseas profits.

SB33 is a law similar to those written by ALEC across the country to eliminate protest of oil and gas infrastructure in communities that have no say in whether those pipelines, compressor stations, injection wells or fracking wells with all their accompanying industrial noise, lights, truck traffic, toxic chemicals, and radiation are welcome. The industry doesn't want to deal with citizens out to protect their air, water and land.

If you support SB33, you want to discourage protesting to protect Ohio's environment. You want to put out of business groups like the Sierra Club, Mom's Clean Air Force, Ohio Environmental Council and others. We already have laws against trespassing, and damaging property. We don't need SB33 to make those actions illegal. Is this what you as elected representatives of the people want to do in this legislature about the huge problems we face as a state? I hope that you will do the right thing and reject this bill.