

The United States was built on protest, uncomfortably it was built on violent protest. It is our heritage; and vivid examples include the American Revolution, women's suffrage, and the abolition of slavery which result in the Civil War. All of which contributed to making the U.S. the global leader of democracy. HB 2772 has the potential to do great harm to silence and label well intended citizens speaking out and engaging in direction action to protest issues relating to critical infrastructure, as "domestic terrorists." This is akin to creating a police state. Oregon is better than this.

As an Oregonian whose home was threatened with eminent domain by a high-pressured gas pipeline company, our family was subject to secret surveillance because of our opposition. This bill legitimizes these covert activities and would make it possible for a company to label us "domestic terrorists," because we choose to exercise our first amendment rights to protect our home. This legislation makes it plausible for private companies to assert that opposition to its activities is, or can be "a disruption of service," and literally destroy a family financially if it must legally prove otherwise. This bill is designed to destroy lives of normal everyday Oregonians and cause its own kind of unique harm and destruction than it has potential to protect infrastructure. Governments who move to invent crimes against its own citizens are taking the first step to creating a totalitarian government. A legislative tool to oppress and silence disagreement is a threat to liberty. Oregon is better than this.

Oregon already has adequate laws to address those who seek to harm and resort to violence – this legislation is unnecessary and is structured to create criminals where none would normally exist and that is a dangerous precedent to set. Oregon is better than this.

SB 5506 must remove any funding or financial support that would advance the HB 2772 or fund its activities.

/Stacey McLaughlin
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