

To: Senator Scott Martin
From: Lancaster Against Pipelines & Lancaster Stands Up
Date: May 17, 2019
Subject: Protecting Free Speech Rights

Dear Senator Martin,

Please accept this invitation to meet us at your Lancaster office (48-50 W. Chestnut St.) on Friday, May 31, at 4:00 PM.

We'd like to tell you, face to face, how we feel about your sponsorship of recent bills designed to suppress our First Amendment rights here in Pennsylvania. As a public servant, your duty is to work on behalf of Pennsylvania's local communities, especially the most vulnerable among us. However, you consistently put industry profits over the wellbeing of the people and the environment.

Here's one example. Since you entered the PA Senate in 2016, communities all across the state have expressed overwhelming opposition to the forced installation of fracked gas pipelines. Many reasons have fueled this opposition. For starters, we know that fossil fuels pose the greatest threat to the future of our planet. But we also understand that the gas and oil industry is part of a larger pattern of exploitation that disproportionately harms women, children, people of color, indigenous communities, and the poor.

Out of moral conviction, we called you to stand with your people against corporate greed. But rather than defend your own communities, you sided with corporate elites by pushing legislation that would literally imprison and bankrupt the very communities calling you to fulfill your oath of office.

Here are just a few of the ways you've betrayed the public trust since taking office:

- In 2017, you arranged for North Dakota politicians, police, military personnel, and fossil fuel reps to "teach" our local law enforcement how to suppress local opposition to dangerous new pipelines here in PA. These were the same North Dakota officials responsible for human rights abuses against indigenous women, children, and elders who were working to protect their treaty rights, drinking water, and sacred sites at Standing Rock.
- In 2018, you co-sponsored Senator Mike Regan's Senate Bill 652. The bill amended existing criminal statutes in order to make grassroots pipeline resistance a felony in Pennsylvania, punishable by prison time. The bill passed the PA Senate before stalling in the house.
- Now in 2019, you're the lead sponsor of Senate Bill 323, which is yet another attempt to chill free speech. The bill would charge PA residents for police response costs associated with local protests, regardless of the issue. Shockingly, the bill's language specifically targets "vigils and prayer services" that address social issues.

Given the contempt you've shown toward your constituents, toward the most vulnerable in our communities, toward the environment, and toward our First Amendment rights, we're holding a public event in Lancaster City on Friday, May 31, at 3:00 PM in Binns Park. Immediately following the rally, attendees will walk around the corner to visit your office. We want to share with you, in very personal terms, why we're committed to defending our Free Speech rights.

We're asking you to meet us at your office at 4:00 PM.

To be clear: we are not inviting you to address us. We are not inviting you to a public debate. We are inviting you to listen to the voices of your people. We have a lot to say to you.

Please confirm your acceptance of this open invitation at your earliest convenience.