

May 24, 2019

Senator Scott Martin:

We received your letter of May 22. We are disappointed to learn that you've declined our invitation to a public listening session with your own constituents regarding SB323.

Your ongoing refusal to meet in a space of public accountability says an awful lot about your work as an elected official. Maybe more than you intended.

On the one hand: your refusal to hear community members express their opinions on legislation that threatens our First Amendment rights speaks volumes about your priorities.

On the other hand: your counter-offer to hold a private, closed-door session with a "couple" of our "designated representatives"—where no one is held publicly accountable for their words—is also very telling. Apparently, you're so accustomed to meeting with special interest groups seeking closed-door access to your political influence that you've forgotten how to meet the very people you vowed to serve when you assumed public office.

We're taking off work, leaving school early, and rearranging our schedules to speak with you publicly about your proposed bill. If you valued the voices of your people, you'd make it a priority to be there, too.

Unfortunately, your own words betray your true priorities. Just today, while defending your decision to target local pipeline protests, you're quoted in *LNP* as saying: "Nobody has a right to cause damage to another person's property, create a dangerous situation for community residents and first responders, or create an expensive mess for someone else to clean up" (Signs Decry Protest Billing, 5/24/19).

We couldn't agree more. Except the threat to "property," "community residents," and "first responders" in this scenario is **not** local residents defending family and farm through peaceful protest. It's the \$50-billion pipeline company that forcibly seized land against our will, and the explosive, high-pressure, fracked gas pipeline now running beside our homes and schools, bound for foreign markets through our endangered, devalued properties.

While your own people are out organizing for safer communities and a livable planet, you're working behind closed doors to silence our voices at the request of industry lobbyists.

Once again: We'll be visiting your office on Friday, May 31, at 4 PM to express our profound alarm over your proposed legislation. Perhaps you could at least peek your head out while we're there. As always, we will be courteous, honest, and motivated by deep moral conviction—the same qualities we expect of our elected officials.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the thousands of your own PA constituents
who support the values and work of Lancaster Against Pipelines & Lancaster Stands Up*