



**ACT OHIO**  
AFFILIATED CONSTRUCTION TRADES

**Matthew A. Szollosi:** Executive Director

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To: Ohio House of Representatives – House Public Utilities Committee  
From: Matt Szollosi, ACT Ohio Executive Director  
Date: April 25, 2017  
Re: Proponent Testimony on HB 178

The Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio Foundation ("ACT Ohio") is a 501(c)(5) organization created by the Ohio State Building Trades Council to facilitate economic and industrial development and promote industry best practices for Ohio's public and private construction. I am here to express to you ACT Ohio's strong support for passage of HB 178.

ACT Ohio exists to ensure the bar remains high for quality and safety with regard to Ohio's construction industry. Our 137 local affiliates and 14,000+ signatory contractors invested in excess of \$48 million dollars in apprenticeship training last year. Please note that this investment is 100% private money - hourly deductions from workers' paychecks and agreed-upon employer contributions. We have, and will continue to, vehemently oppose taxpayer subsidization of apprenticeship training for construction.

According to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, 83% of Ohio's construction industry apprentices are registered in our programs. This includes 94% of Ohio's female apprentices, and 88% of Ohio's minority apprentices. Upon completion of their training, they become an essential part of our workforce, which is why I am here today.

Electrical generation creates and sustains thousands of good-paying jobs in the State of Ohio. ACT Ohio has adopted an "all of the above" approach to generation, including coal, gas, wind, solar, and of course nuclear power. In partnership with the Building Trades, our contractors can build, maintain and repair all of these highly sophisticated facilities to ensure consistent and dedicated power for Ohio's businesses and consumers.

The Davis-Besse and Perry Nuclear Power Stations support thousands of stable, high-paying jobs across the state, including 1400 direct employees at the two plants. Many of these full-time workers belong to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers ("IBEW"), earning strong wages and competitive benefits. For the Building Trades, however, the ongoing maintenance and facility upgrades are critically important for our industry.

To give you some scale, a recent study published by Nuclear Matters shows that the Building Trades average close to a quarter million man-hours on the two nuclear power plants. It is not uncommon for these numbers to exceed 500,000 hours in years involving shut-downs for refueling, significant facility enhancements or safety projects.



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These hours are precious to our members, and we are grateful for them. These jobs sustain families.

Davis-Besse is licensed to operate through 2037, and Perry potentially through 2046. Our keen interest in HB 178 is directly on these jobs and the impact on the construction industry if nuclear power generation is no longer viable in the State of Ohio. That is a situation we do not want to see happen.

I urge your strong consideration for passage of HB 178.

Thank you.

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