



Representative Anthony DeVitis

House Bill 178

Public Utilities Committee

Sponsor Testimony – Representative Anthony DeVitis

April 25, 2017

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford and members of the Public Utilities Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring House Bill 178 before you. HB 178 will create the zero-emissions nuclear (ZEN) resource program.

Nuclear energy plants are reliable, steady producers of zero emission energy that do not ramp up or down with demand. Ohio has two nuclear plants that provide a 24/7 electric supply and do not emit greenhouse gases or other air pollutants. A large employee base ranging from nuclear engineers and trades people to maintenance personnel operates these facilities. Last year, these power plants generated about 14% of Ohio's electricity. The continued operation of the plants effects not only the workers at the plant, but also the ironworkers, boilermakers, pipefitters, etc. who are frequently employed there.

The ZEN resource program will enable the state to meet its policy goals and requirements under which zero-emissions nuclear credits are purchased by electric distribution utilities to provide long-term energy security and environmental and other benefits to the region and to retail electric service customers in the state. Illinois and New York, who have faced similar circumstances, will commence their Zero-Emission Credits programs this year.

FirstEnergy alerted me to the urgent need of this legislation and I felt compelled to offer this bill to help facilitate a discussion about the importance of these nuclear plants and the invaluable service they provide. FirstEnergy is a major corporation based in Akron, Ohio. They are a large employer in Summit County, and they are sponsors of many venues and contribute to nearly every charitable cause in northeast Ohio and elsewhere.

Chairman Seitz, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford and members of the Public Utilities Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring House Bill 178 before you and begin this conversation on how to best preserve one of our energy resources and ensure more consumer choices.

Committees:

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