

**Testimony of Walter R. Siegel Administrator**

**Perry Township**

**House Bill 178**

**I would like to thank Chairman Seitz and the Ohio Public Utilities Committee for allowing me to testify today regarding an Issue that is unique in the State of Ohio.**

**I was in high School when it was announced that a nuclear Power Plant was going to be built in our community. Perry was a small rural town that was mostly farms and nursery land. We had no large industries to support our tax base. Our school was just starting to recover from being closed in 1968 because the School District could not afford to pay our bills. The Schools were closed for 3 month until a new 10 mill levy was approved by the Community. I am not aware of another School District that ever had to close its doors because of no money. I believe now the State of Ohio would step in and take over the school system.**

**When the community was made aware of the Plant, we were told that the school system would never need to worry about operating money again. Many things outside of our control such as the Ad Hoc Committee that was formed and approved by the Legislature before 1990. This took money from the Perry Plant and distributed it to 42 counties that had transmission lines from the plant going through their community. Lake County lost \$25 million dollars.**

**To help other school districts that surrounded the Perry Schools, a new type of financing District in 1990 called the Lake County Financing District was created. This allowed Districts the ability to share revenue**

from the Power Plant. If the plant were to be shut down all the School Districts that are members would lose 5 mills of tax revenue.

Our Fire Department is the first response to any event at the plant. Their budget would be so drastically affected that we would need to put on additional levy's.

Perry Township would lose over \$200,000 out of their General Fund, money that is used for Parks, Cemetery's, and Roads if the plant was shut down. This is on top of the \$230,000 that we have lost from the Local Government Fund. We could not absorb additional loss of revenue.

Our Library receives 50 % of their budget from the plant. The most affected of all the entities would be on Perry Local Schools. Their budget would be so drastically cut that there is no way enough levies could be passed and our schools would fall into state receivership. Auburn Career Center, Lakeland Community College and all the County levy's that relies on property tax would be greatly affected to the point that they would be going to ballot for increases in property tax, and don't believe all the levies could be passed.

The last information that I would like to testify to is the loss of over 1500 good paying jobs that will be lost not only to Lake County but to the State of Ohio. These are very well trained employees and that pay many dollar to all the surrounding Communities. They spend their money on homes, cars and other good in the communities

Unless the State of Ohio wants to end up like California were they continually have power shortages and rolling black outs we cannot afford to lose the only two Nuclear Power Plants in the State. Gas may be cheap right now, but that can change quickly.

**No one wants to pay higher utilities cost, but not only is nuclear power the cleanest and environmentally safe form of electricity, to try and build new distribution lines throughout northeast Ohio and Pennsylvania, could not be cost effective.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**