

## Gallia County Commissioners

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*Harold G. Montgomery, President  
David K. Smith, Vice-President  
Brent Saunders, Commissioner*

*Office Staff:  
Karen Sprague, County Administrator  
Anette L. Brown, Clerk to the Board  
Connie Johnson, Assistant Clerk*

May 15, 2017

House Public Utilities Committee  
77 S. High Street  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: House Bill 178

Dear Chairman Bill Seitz, Vice Chairman Rick Carfagna, Ranking Member Michael Ashford, and Members of the House Public Utilities Committee:

The Gallia County Commissioners write in strong opposition to House Bill 178, which creates a Zero Emission Nuclear (ZEN) program that will unfairly subsidize the already unprofitable operation of nuclear power plants.

With our community's largest economic contributors being the coal fired power plants, Lightstone Generation Gavin Plant and the Ohio Valley Electric Kyger Creek Plant, Gallia County has a vested interest in the outcome of House Bill 178.

As coal continually competes to stay viable, it is already challenged against inexpensive and abundant natural gas, new environmental regulations, and environmental activists. The allowance of subsidies for nuclear power plants with HB 178, will leave other energy producing companies, including coal fired power plants, at an even further operating disadvantage.

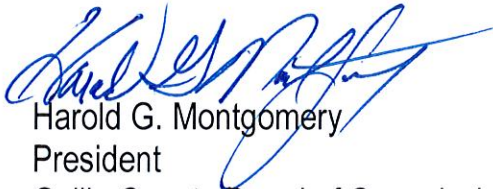
Gallia County is a small rural county in Southeast Ohio with a population of 31,000. The Gavin Plant and the Kyger Creek Plant are not only among the top employers of the community, but the power plants compromise 70% of our county's tax base and 67% of the local school revenue. The continued operation of these power plants are essential to the ongoing economic stability of Gallia County.

Not only will HB 178 put other energy producing companies, including the Lightstone Generation Gavin Plant and the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation Kyger Creek Plant, at a clear disadvantage by operating without government subsidies, but the pending legislation causes potential interruption in the current energy market, and will hinder economic growth and new business attraction with the increase in electricity costs across the state of Ohio.

For the reasons listed above, the Gallia County Commissioners strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 178 and its unfair subsidies of nuclear power plants.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harold G. Montgomery".

Harold G. Montgomery  
President  
Gallia County Board of Commissioners.

cc: Ryan Smith, Representative, Ohio House of Representatives  
Bob Peterson, Ohio State Senator