

**Testimony Before the House Public Utilities Committee**  
**Opponent Testimony**  
**Robert White, President, Ohio State Grange**  
**May 16, 2017**

Chairman Seitz and members of the House Public Utilities Committee, my name is Robert White. I am the President of the Ohio State Grange. The Grange is a family, community organization with its roots in agriculture. Founded in 1867, the Grange was formed as a national organization with a local focus. Our members are given the opportunity to learn and grow to their full potential as citizens and leaders. Our members are farmers.

On behalf of our members I am here today to testify against HB 178, which has become known as the nuclear bailout bill. This will pass along the cost of the bailout to First Energy's customers. This will cause all businesses in their service area to have to pass the increased cost of doing business on to our customers. And in the case of farmers, that cost gets passed along to everyone! Everyone eats, so in the long run, everyone will have to pay for this nuclear bailout. When prices are raised for farmers, they are raised for everyone.

This bill will certainly hurt all consumers in the First Energy territory. And, in the case of farmers, they will not only feel the pain of increased bills, but will be forced to pass those increased costs along. This is an undue burden upon the farmers of Northeast Ohio, who are competing with farmers in other parts of the state and country. What might be a small increase to an individual consumer ends up being a huge increase to a farmer.

What many people don't realize is that farmers make up a significant share of industrial electricity customers. This is because the demand for farm irrigation systems and the special needs of a dairy farm. The amount of electrical power consumed on dairy farms and confinement feeding operations on these livestock operations is increasing with larger farm sizes and the higher level of automation used in more modern farm designs. Variation in electricity consumption between farms is high and is related to the number of electrically powered solutions that are used.

People tend to forget that farmers have high electrical needs. They see the crops growing in the field and think the process is fairly primitive. To get your food from farm to table, however, man must intervene at many steps along the way and many of these ways take electricity.

I come to you today to ask you to think beyond just the First Energy customer. Remember there are many different segments of industry that will be negatively impacted by HB 178. Farming is just one of them.

