

Good afternoon Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, members of the Committee. Thank you for accepting my testimony today. My name is Lee Blackburn and I'm here today to testify in opposition to Substitute House Bill 6, the Ohio Clean **Air** Program. A bill that's even worse than the original, if that's actually possible. After three days of testimony before the Subcommittee on Energy Generation in April on the original HB 6, I'm amazed and quite frankly flabbergasted that this Committee would be wasting it's time on a bill Ohioans clearly don't want.

In the three days of hearings before the Subcommittee, just 11 individuals spoke in support of HB 6, including Dave Griffing of FirstEnergy Solutions, the bankrupted owner of the two dilapidated nuclear plants which stands to gain the most from this terrible bill, Dean Murphy of the Brattle Group, which prepared a presentation paid for by FES and Maria Korsnic of the Nuclear Energy Institute, a supporter of all things nuclear. And not even a citizen of this state, I might add.

In contrast, 99 individuals spoke in opposition to HB 6. Simple math tells you that 90% of those who testified, spoke in opposition to HB 6, yet here we are again, wasting time on a bill that benefits almost no one except FES. I can only assume this has something to do with the over \$3,000,000 FirstEnergy spent on lobbying last year in their effort to have Ohioans pay for these plants for the fifth time, as mentioned in testimony by John Finnigan, Lead Counsel for the Environmental Defense Fund.

I could stand here and tell you all the problems and safety issues associated with these antiqued reactors, from the infamous hole in the head to the cracked shield building. The tremendous amount of deferred maintenance from the bankruptcy. Or that the \$150 or \$160 million from this bill won't be nearly enough to get these reactors out of bankruptcy. Or even that it's a fraud to make people pay for nothing in return. But you've heard all this before.

All I can say is today, we are at the crossroads of history. With one path leading to the archaic past of enormous coal plants belching asthma-inducing smoke and massive reactors with their legacy of toxic, poisonous waste. While the other path leads to a future filled with efficient, renewable energy generated by passive solar panels and ecologically friendly wind turbines. Choose wrong and Ohio will be relegated to the scrapheap of history.

Thank you. Questions?