

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairman Nino Vitale
Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 6
Testimony of Matt Kuhns
Resident and utility customer
Written only

May 5, 2019

Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Matt Kuhns, I am a utility customer and resident of Lakewood, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent to Ohio Substitute House Bill 6.

The small adjustments made to this legislation distinctly fail to address its major problems.

Substitute House Bill 6 is very obviously still an ethically inappropriate bailout of nuclear power plants, which would benefit one of the bill's proponents' major campaign donors, at the expense of utility customers.

Worse, in the name of "clean air," the bill would dismantle important renewable energy and energy efficiency portfolio standards.

None of this serves the public interest. As the committee members ought to be entirely aware, an honest attempt to reduce carbon emissions from Ohio's electric utilities would engage environmental policy experts, whereas this bill rightly continues to receive their firm disapproval. An honest attempt to promote clean energy would include a reduction in Ohio's excessive wind turbine setback rule, whereas this bill's proponents have determined this to be a separate issue.

It is a separate issue, indeed, if Substitute House Bill 6 is correctly recognized as being essentially about neither clean air, nor renewable energy, nor reduced carbon emissions.

As a utility customer, Ohio resident, and advocate for good government, I urge the committee to reject the costly, corrosive quid pro quo of Substitute House Bill 6, and to work in good faith with environmental policy experts to strengthen existing renewable energy policy instead.

I appreciate your time and consideration today, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. I may be reached at mk@mattkuhns.com or (440) 309-9724.