

Testimony for HB6 hearing, 5/8/19

My name is Mary Ellen Berger and I live in Columbus, OH. Thank you for letting me testify in opposition to HB 6 today. I want to note that I also speak for many who are not able to come here to testify. People have their jobs and their children, and they expect that their legislators are working for them, not corporate interests. This proposed bill is a bailout for First Energy, and we don't want to pay for old, uneconomic nuclear plants.

What we do want in Ohio is clean, renewable energy and jobs. We want cleaner water and air, and healthy children. Ohio lags behind many other states in renewable energy development and House Bill 6 would make that worse by gutting our clean energy standards. How could you call that a "Clean Air Program"?

We actually need to expand our renewable energy portfolio standards in Ohio, and develop an energy policy that truly supports clean, renewable energy. Jobs in the clean energy sector are growing at twice the rate as jobs in the rest of the economy. Last year Texas generated 27% of its energy from renewable sources. Ohio was 3%. We need to do better, and we can create a lot of good jobs by doing this.

HB6 is a bad bill but it does highlight the problem with the political power of industry, and the need for more clean energy support in this legislature. We need to take bold action on climate change- we do not have a lot of time. Ohioans overwhelmingly want clean, renewable energy and projects like the proposed AEP solar energy plants in Appalachia. We can create thousands of new jobs by advancing wind and solar, and also lower our electric bills. Please listen to your constituents and vote NO on HB6.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Ellen Berger

Columbus, OH