

Chairman, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation, Thank you for allowing me to express my views on an important issue for this state.

My name is Thomas Collins, I live in and am a member of Village Council in Garrettsville, a small town in Northern Portage county in northeast Ohio. We are a First Energy territory, and I'm speaking for myself as a citizen and ratepayer today.

This bill, House Bill 6, and now its substitute bill, are an embarrassing attempt to fund largely one company, while killing a state program that has seeded many industries of the future. I heard the statements that this bill does not do this, but everyone can see through to the truth of where HB 6 will lead. And the very nature of this bill of this should bother everyone.

In over 50 years of living where I do in Northeast Ohio, I have seen the steel mills closed in Youngstown, a plastics industry grow (and die) in Middlefield, and auto manufacturing dry up in Berea, Twinsburg and just this past month, in Lordstown.

In each case, as industry came and went, and communities adapted and refocused to keep their people working as business changed, with no mandated funding from the state to bail them out. Schools and businesses refocused, and became stronger as a result.

I am sorry that the communities around nuclear facilities now stand to lose their footings, but even more than my sorrow for them, as an Ohio utility customer, I object to paying for their artificial life support, and I know that in my own small town, our utility accounts will leave us hit many times over to fund these two plants.

This bill also will leave Ohio further behind our neighbors, who are increasingly embracing the clean energy path of the world. A wind installation map shows we should have more than 1000Mw of wind power that is missing from our grid. It looks like the wind does not travel from Indiana through Ohio to Pennsylvania. Many Facts say First Energy is behind the efforts to move to future power sources as our neighbors are.

To me, the bigger point here is, there are opportunities and jobs for all on that clean energy path, especially if we do not hamstring them with bad legislation bailing out the past or cleaning up after them. And even this endless debate of this is hurting everyone in Ohio, as developers sit on the sideline and watch this partisan show.

Even with all that is wrong with energy policy in Columbus, Today, Ohio has many manufacturers already developing the technologies of tomorrow, with over 200 companies that have found a market place as they embraced the energy of the future.

Each of these manufacturers has been encouraged by the Renewable Portfolio Standard that House Bill 6 and its substitute now seek to end.

I ask myself; surely this body knows that other states are expanding their Renewable Standards, expanding the opportunities for new business to grow in their states?

We can do that too with a new bill that does not start with a single industry in mind.

With the worldwide movement to clean energy, we are blessed with a rare opportunity to clearly see and seize the future for our state, and this bill does neither. Instead it may plunge Ohio into backroom dealings for temporary winners as we watch the world pass us by.

I ask this committee to Reject this bill and start again, without a bias for a single company, listening to the people who see tomorrow, and working together get to the carbon free solution for all of Ohio.

<https://windexchange.energy.gov/maps-data/321>

Thanks and Take care

Thomas Collins

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"There are people in every time and every land who want to stop history in its tracks.

They fear the future, mistrust the present, and invoke the security of a comfortable past which, in fact, never existed." RFK