

As a citizen and customer, I oppose HB6. First Energy's proposal is a bailout for nuclear power plants that should be decommissioned. The plants have a long history of serious problems. Beyond that is the burden of safe storage of nuclear wastes they have generated. We should not produce more of these dangerous materials, which will be placed in containment areas which have had leaks. The argument that nuclear power should be supported because of its low carbon footprint is not supportable, given the additional risks this form of energy production creates.

I am a citizen of Worthington, where we recently passed an electric aggregation program, which will lower rates and support renewable energy. The vote was 75% in favor of this plan. To be asked to pay to bail out and perpetuate nuclear power, when we seek to support truly green renewable energy from solar and wind, feels like a slap in the face. We hope to do MORE to support truly clean energy. This bill undermines what limited state support there is, and would even prop up coal burning plants, which I find unacceptable.

It is ironic that this committee meeting takes place one day after the news broke that Zahn's Corner Middle School in Pike County, must be closed due to the discovery of enriched uranium inside the school building. Although the Piketon Enrichment facility was a different kind of plant, it is distressing to see Ohio struggling with nuclear waste storage concerns in both the north and the south. This burden will be with us long beyond our lifetimes. These plants must be closed, and First Energy should not burden all the citizens of Ohio with a bail out.

In listening to testimony on this proposed legislation, both here at the state house and through the Ohio News Network, I have been impressed by the growth of wind and solar power in our state – both through manufacturing and increased generation. Technology is advancing rapidly, as are job possibilities. I would encourage support for their continued development, instead of this bill, which is not in the best interest of the citizens.

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