

**Proponent Testimony of
Lew Galante, CFO, Perry Local Schools**

**Before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of
The Ohio House of Representatives**

May 15, 2019

Good morning Chairman Vitale, Vice-Chair Kick and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Lew Galante CFO of Perry Local School District and I would like to express my support for preserving the Ohio nuclear power plants.

I am especially interested in protecting the Perry nuclear facility because it is located in, and provides crucial support for, my community.

In my official capacity as the CFO for Perry Schools, I oversee the finances of a district that handles payroll for approximately 250 full and part-time employees and manages a district budget of more than \$23 million for a student population of approximately 1650 students.

Perry Local Schools is a school district that would be devastated if the Perry nuclear plant were to be prematurely closed. The Perry plant, like the Davis-Besse nuclear facility in Ottawa County, pays millions of dollars in state and local taxes, a critical funding support for our schools.

Losing the tax revenues that the plant generates, along with the direct personal taxes paid by its 700 employees, as well as the peripheral sales and taxes their local spending creates, would seriously threaten Perry Local Schools' ability to provide our students with the educations they need and deserve.

Devaluations of tangible personal property at the Perry facility have already reduced district tax revenues by nearly \$3.5 million over this past two years. If the plant were to close completely, millions more would be drained from our tax collections.

Additionally, by allowing both Ohio nuclear power facilities to shut down would reduce statewide tax revenues by an estimated \$30 million a year. This is funding Perry, Lake County, and the State of Ohio cannot afford to lose. Our state's two nuclear plants spend approximately \$45 million a year with in-state vendors and their total impact on the state economy is noted to be over \$500 million.

Adequately funding education in Ohio has been a longstanding, ongoing struggle.

Please protect the invaluable tax support for our schools and Ohio that nuclear power provides by approving House Bill 6.

Thank you.