

Alvin Dawson Testimony

My name is Alvin Dawson, and I'm from Toledo. I moved there after serving in the United States Navy Submarine Service for Nine years. I've lived in Toledo area for 31 years and served as a church Pastor for 12 of those years. I've worked at the Davis-Besse plant for 31 years in Chemistry and Training, and now serve as a Chemical, Environmental, and Radiation Protection Manager on the Decommissioning Team. My current assignment puts me in a tough situation, I have to aid in planning the final shutdown and decommissioning of an extremely viable asset that I don't want to see go away! Because of what I do, I am always interested in government policies that support economic stability and good-paying jobs for Ohio workers. I want to see Ohio's nuclear power employers stay in operation and urge the committee to move House Bill 6 forward to help make sure they do.

The nuclear power industry has long benefited from the skills and work ethic of employees at Ohio plants. Jobs in nuclear plants provide long-term, high-quality, steady work that usually pays one-third more than the wages of jobs surrounding the plant. These are the kind of living-wage employment opportunities that we must preserve, both for workers today and for future generations of Ohioans.

Ohio's highly-trained nuclear plant employees keep themselves and their local communities safe. Davis-Besse workers have not experienced a single lost-time accident in the last 14 million manhours, a remarkable safety record in any industry.

As Chemistry Manager, protecting the public was my priority, with preserving the asset the being the focus of Operational Chemistry. The First Energy nuclear fleet is among the most reliable in the nation, operating longer without a fuel defect than any other U.S. fleet. Collecting hundreds of Environmental Monitoring Samples, a year, Environmental and safety personnel have never detected background radiation levels higher than the normal amounts that occur from natural sources.

The closure of the Perry and Davis-Besse nuclear plants, which is virtually assured if House Bill 6 is not approved, would mean the loss of 4,300 Ohio jobs directly and indirectly supported by the two generating facilities.

Replacing the energy they produce with natural gas-fired plants would not come even close to replacing those lost jobs. Our Ohio nuclear plants employ roughly 700 to 800 workers apiece, while a typical combined cycle gas plant only provides jobs for 25 to 50 employees.

The Ohio Clean Air Program that would be created by House Bill 6 would also support employment in other clean energy sectors including wind and solar.

I am sure all of you on this committee represent Ohio energy workers in your home districts. Please consider them and give your full support to House Bill 6.

Thank you.