

**Testimony of Beth Hannam, Executive Director  
Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation  
Submitted to  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives**

Good morning, my name is Beth Hannam, and I am the executive director of the Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation. Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the Committee, I am here today to urge you to support House Bill 6. House Bill 6 calls for the creation of the Ohio Clean Air Program, which will not only lower monthly utility bills for Ohio's residential and industrial customers, but this legislation will also protect high-paying jobs critical to the state's economy.

Ohio's existing energy program does not account for the majority of Ohio's carbon-free emissions. Without the support of this legislation, existing energy sources may disappear, and Ohio residential electricity bills will increase between \$2.50 and \$5.00 per month. Commercial and industrial suppliers stand to benefit under the proposed legislation. The nearly across the board savings that customers will experience is likely to spur economic growth and promote the creation of new jobs for the state of Ohio.

In addition, House Bill 6 will protect high-paying jobs in the state of Ohio that nuclear power plants already provide. If this bill were to become law, thousands of Ohio jobs that are tied directly and indirectly to sources of zero-carbon emissions will be saved. In addition, House Bill 6 takes an incentive-based approach that will lead to more jobs to support new sources of zero-emission energy. If clean energy sources are not protected or given the opportunity to thrive, a near monopoly of fossil fuels, such as coal and natural gas, will dominate the Ohio electric power market. If Ohio's nuclear plants are allowed to shutter prematurely, they will likely be replaced in the market by natural gas plants. Consider that a modern gas power plant typically employs between 25-50 employees while the nuclear plants in Ohio employ between 700-800 employees each. We cannot afford to lose the source of 90% of Ohio's carbon-free electricity and the related jobs.

It is also important to keep in mind that this legislation will have no impact on existing jobs in the gas and oil industry. It is about saving the 4,300 high-skilled, well-paying jobs that the nuclear industry supports in Ohio. Nuclear power plants and working families in Ohio are counting on this legislature to take prompt action and pass House Bill 6. I urge you to support this legislation and keep our nuclear power plants open for business. Thank you.