

## **Doug Huey Testimony,**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the committee today, my name is Doug Huey. As the Director of Performance Improvement at the Davis-Besse plant, I am here to voice my support for House Bill 6.

The Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power plants are important sources of high-wage, full-benefits jobs for Ohio workers. They directly employ over 1,400 Ohioans and create spinoff jobs for 2,600 more. Losing those jobs by closing down the plants would have a very significant negative impact on the communities surrounding them, where employees buy homes, eat in local restaurants, and shop in neighborhood businesses.

The overall impact of closure on the Ohio economy would put even more jobs at risk by slowing state economic growth. Energy production operations at Davis-Besse and Perry create \$45 million a year in sales for Ohio vendors and suppliers. In total, the two nuclear plants add \$500 million a year to the Ohio economy.

We have seen the economic impact of nuclear closures in other states. When nuclear plants go offline average wages dip, houses go up for sale, and skilled workers are forced to look elsewhere for employment. I know this because I have experienced it personally. I left the state of Florida after the plant that I used to work at in Citrus County closed. Ohio must do everything possible to protect high-wage, high-skill employment in our state, not put it at risk by turning our backs on clean, safe nuclear power production.

Nuclear energy producers would not be the only Ohio employers protected by House bill 6 and the new state clean energy program it would create. Wind and solar power generators would also qualify for supports, industries that now employ roughly 10,000 people.

Those are high-growth industries, producing five times more zero-emission, renewable energy in 2018 than they did in 2008. Investing in those energy sectors, along with nuclear power, could create many new jobs in our state and greatly expand the amount of clean energy available to other Ohio employers and residential electricity consumers.

House Bill 6 will support the Ohio economy, strengthen our state's energy security, and preserve good jobs for Ohio workers. I am strongly in favor of this legislation and hope the General Assembly will approve it as quickly as possible.

Thank you.