

**Proponent Testimony of
Mayor of North Perry, Ed Klco**

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

May 15, 2019

I thank the members of the committee for the opportunity to speak to you today. I am here in support of House Bill 6 and Ohio nuclear power.

As the mayor of North Perry, I am very familiar with the Perry nuclear power facility. Many of the people that work there either live in our community or commute in each day from neighboring towns. They are important contributors to North Perry and I am very concerned what the closure of that plant would do to local businesses, schools, and the general economy.

Nuclear plants produce much more than just zero-emission electricity. They create hundreds of high-skilled, well-paying jobs. Fewer than 1,000 people live in North Perry. Losing an employer that provides good jobs for roughly 700 workers, as the Perry plant does, would have a major negative impact on our real estate market, and sales in local stores, restaurants, and other businesses. It would directly and profoundly affect the quality of life in our community.

The reduction in the North Perry tax base that would be caused by closing the plant would be equally painful, reducing funding for our schools, social programs, and city services including first responders. Again, the quality of life for North Perry residents would be degraded.

On a statewide basis, Perry and Ohio's other nuclear plant, Davis-Besse, provide more than 4,300 direct and indirect jobs for Ohio workers. They pay \$30 million in state and local taxes each year and contribute half-a-billion dollars to annual Ohio GDP. Clearly, North Perry will not be the only Ohio community to suffer if House Bill 6 is rejected and the entire nuclear power industry in our state is lost forever.

There are many other arguments for protecting Perry and Davis-Besse. Together they produce 90 percent of Ohio's clean energy supply. They protect us from power outages and shortages that occur when states don't diversify their energy mix. They help keep utility costs under control.

But, as a city official in a town that is home to nuclear power generation, the potential economic catastrophe that would come from shutting down the nuclear plants is by far the most concerning issue to me. I urge you to give House Bill 6 your full support. Please save Ohio nuclear power.

Thank you.