

HB 6 Statement - Guy Parmigian, Superintendent of Benton-Carroll-Salem School District

Before I start, I'd like to thank the Chairman and members of this committee for having me today. I appreciate the opportunity to go on the record in support of HB 6, which will not only contribute to Ohio's clean energy efforts but will also help protect vital economic contributions that Ohio public schools rely on for funding. My name is Guy Parmigian and I serve as the Superintendent of the Benton-Carroll-Salem School District, which is located in Oak Harbor, Ohio. As you may know, that is also home to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. Across our school district, some 220 dedicated teachers and staff members proudly serve 1,500 students, helping prepare them for future success.

The Davis-Besse nuclear plant plays a critical economic role with regard to supporting our mission to equip our young minds with the tools they will need as they move on to higher education, skills or vocational training, and the workforce. At Davis-Besse, more than 700 local Ottawa County residents are gainfully employed, many of whom are parents of the students we serve. Not only does that help provide stability, job security, and benefits for local families, but it boosts local economies in a multitude of ways.

In 2017, for example, the Davis-Besse power plant paid more than \$4 million in personal and property taxes, directly benefitting our local school district. That same tax year, the plant was responsible for contributing 40 percent to annual tax revenues for the Benton-Carroll-Salem School Districts. If Davis-Besse is forced to close prematurely, that would have a significant negative impact on our school district's revenue—not to mention on the lives of the students whose family members work there. As you can imagine, this has created a lot of anxiety in our community.

The ramifications would reach beyond Oak Harbor, however. Combined with the Perry Nuclear Power Plant outside of Cleveland, these two facilities pay roughly \$30 million in state and local taxes, which helps support public schools and other vital community programs and services across the state. Without these plants our educational institutions would face serious funding issues and budget shortfalls.

Please pass HB 6 and help protect the vital economic contributions these plant provide for local school districts and Ohio communities.