

**Proponent Testimony of
Superintendent, Perry Local Schools, Jack Thompson
Before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of
The Ohio House of Representatives**

May 15, 2019

First, I'd like to thank the committee and the chairman for allowing me to provide this testimony. My name is Jack Thompson, and I am the Superintendent of Perry Local Schools. I'm here today to urge you to vote YES on HB 6, which will help lower Ohioans' electric bills while contributing to our state's clean energy efforts.

Just as importantly for the village of Perry and Lake County as a whole, HB 6 will also help preserve critical tax revenue that benefits our local communities and schools.

Through the creation of the Ohio Clean Air Program, HB 6 would help keep the Perry Nuclear Power Plant open and operational. This of course has immense environmental benefits as nuclear energy is our state's largest source of zero-emissions power, helping to keep our carbon footprint down by limiting air pollution.

However, just as important from my perspective—and for my community—is the local impact that the Perry nuclear plant has on funding for education in Perry and statewide.

The Perry Nuclear Power Plant, along with the Davis-Besse nuclear plant in the Toledo area, provides upwards of \$30 million in local and state tax revenue. That's millions of dollars that gets pumped directly back into local communities to support vital programs and services, including education. Without these tax revenues, statewide funding for schools and emergency services in particular would be threatened.

That would have a direct impact on the ability of Perry Local Schools and other school districts to provide the same level of quality education and programming for future generations of Ohioans.

Additionally, if the Perry facility is forced to close its doors permanently, then that would put roughly 700 to 800 hardworking men and women out of a job entirely, further hurting local economies and Lake County families. Like many of the towns surrounding the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, the village of Perry is a small community—with fewer than 2,000 residents. The economic impact of losing seven to eight hundred jobs—and the steady income these jobs provide—would be devastating.

All in all, preserving nuclear power has undeniable benefits for Ohio's environment, our economy, and our schools. Please take these views into consideration and vote yes on HB 6. Thank you for your time today.