

Remarks of Joe Zwetolitz
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Day & Zimmermann

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
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Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to speak before you today. I am Joe Zwetolitz, Vice President of Nuclear Operations for Day & Zimmermann.

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Day & Zimmermann supports Substitute House Bill 6. This Committee has heard a great deal about how this legislation will position Ohio as a leader in the clean energy economy. I would like to bring focus to how HB 6 will preserve and create highly skilled and well-paid jobs for the people of this state, and the impact if this legislation is not passed.

Day & Zimmermann is one of the largest maintenance and outage service providers to the U.S. power industry, serving over 100 fossil and nuclear energy plants across the country, including the two nuclear stations operated by FirstEnergy Solutions here in Ohio. At the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power stations, Day & Zimmermann employs over 1,200 people during the course of a year. These include a wide variety of individuals in skilled trades, including boilermakers, pipefitters, iron workers, carpenters, insulators, electricians, millwrights, and painters – making wages between \$28 and \$41 per hour. With these specialized tradespeople, we help maintain these power stations by providing

maintenance on key components (such as pumps, piping, valves, and electrical systems), modifications (such as enhancements for safety and security), and installing new components and systems (such as wireless communications equipment). These are good jobs supporting hundreds of families in this state.

The communities surrounding Davis-Besse and Perry are stronger and more vibrant because of the jobs and economic activity created by these power stations. The closure of either of these facilities would have serious consequences. As we already know from experiences in other states, the premature deactivation of a nuclear plant has a significant adverse impact on the local economy through not only the loss of highly skilled jobs at the plant itself, but also through the loss of jobs at other businesses throughout the community and the wider region. These include all the material suppliers, vendors, restaurants, small businesses, and hotels that indirectly support the operation of the facility.

Further, premature plant closures will deplete a league of highly skilled and specifically trained and experienced employees, many of whom have family roots in their communities and who take great pride in their work. Not only would Ohio lose jobs in its local communities, but the nuclear industry would also lose access to experienced workers who we rely on to work at other nuclear stations around the country. The resulting smaller pool of talent will limit our ability to provide planned maintenance and urgent repairs at the power plants elsewhere which remain in operation.

For these reasons, Day & Zimmermann enthusiastically endorses the proposed legislation to support the continued operation of FirstEnergy Solution's nuclear stations.