

**Proponent Testimony of  
Lake County Commissioner, John R. Hamercheck**

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

**May 15, 2019**

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide my perspective on HB 6 and its importance in protecting our state's nuclear fleet from early retirement. My name is John Hamercheck, and I am one of three elected commissioners for Lake County. Together, we work to address the needs of our community today while planning for a stronger future tomorrow. Ensuring Lake County continues benefit from the economic, environmental, and employment contributions that the Perry Nuclear Power Plant provide is key to fulfilling our mission.

The Perry Nuclear Power Plant directly employs more than 700 hardworking men and women in Lake County. Combined with the Davis-Besse plant outside of Toledo, these two nuclear facilities are responsible for supporting 4,300 highly skilled, good-paying jobs directly or indirectly across the state. Moreover, the two plants also pay more than \$30 million in taxes at the state and local level, much of which recirculates in local communities across the county to provide funding and financial support for such invaluable services as education and emergency services. If the Perry plant is forced to shut down early, then some Lake County towns, villages, and communities may be forced to either scale back these invaluable programs or else increase taxes to help cover the loss of this much-needed revenue. These should not be choices that any community has to make.

On top of threatening local jobs and undermining vital education and emergency services funding, decommissioning Ohio's nuclear fleet would result in Lake County residents – as well as all Ohioans – paying more for electricity. By some estimates, HB 6 will save Ohio families millions of dollars in energy costs by eliminating the multiple charges and mandates that currently get added to their monthly electric bills. Conversely, if these nuclear power plants do in fact close, then Ohio residential electricity bills could increase between \$2.50 and \$5.00 per month. Especially in Lake County, which will already be hit by job losses and decreased local tax revenue, this additional financial burden could be too much for many residents to bear.

There is simply too much at stake here. Please do not let the economic and employment benefits that the Perry Nuclear Power Plant provides Lake County residents slip away. I respectfully ask for a yes vote on HB 6.