

**Mark Kanz Testimony on HB6
5/15/19**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Mark Kanz. I've been the communications person at Davis-Besse for the past year and a half. I'm here today to speak on behalf of the thousands of hardworking men and women whose lives and futures will be severely impacted if the Ohio General Assembly fails to pass HB 6 and maintain Ohio's existing nuclear power fleet.

I came to Ohio from Kewaunee, Wisconsin in December of 2017. Kewaunee may sound familiar to those of you who have looked into the closure of other nuclear plants. May 7, 2013 is a day that is etched in my memory. I spent most of the day with members of the media watching steam from the atmospheric steam dump valves billow from the Kewaunee Power Station as it shut down for the final time unable to be economically viable.

Kewaunee is a small, midwestern, rural community adjacent to Lake Michigan and not far from the state's third largest city. The nuclear plant was the largest employer in the area by a wide margin. Several generations of families had worked at the plant in the 40-plus years of its construction and operation. It was one of the top performing plants in the country but fell victim to being unable to compete in an unbalanced marketplace. It's the same story I find myself in the middle of today... déjà vu all over again! I want to do whatever I can to ensure Davis-Besse doesn't suffer the same fate. HB 6 is at least a first step until some type of market stabilization can be reached to ensure this state and our country maintain a diverse fuel supply and that the proper credit is awarded to emission-free electrical producers.

You've been hearing a lot about the technical side of things. I also want you to consider the human side of the legislation you are considering. I make the trip back home frequently and run into former co-workers regularly. The ones that were able to retire are working on side jobs and loving life. They are the exception and not the rule. There are others who have had to settle for jobs well below their qualifications and pay grade just to remain in the area they've called home for so long. They've no doubt had to make some quality of life changes.

There are younger folks who took other jobs with the company in Virginia but had to uproot their families to do it. Others took jobs elsewhere in the industry leaving Northeastern Wisconsin in the rearview mirror. The people I feel the most sorry for are the ones that went to be operators at new plants that were under construction in South Carolina with a carload of new hopes and dreams. They wound up back on the employment line as that project was abandoned late last year.

My job here has given me back a good, steady, and stable source of income; benefits for me and my family; and the opportunity to contribute to Ohio's diverse energy mix in order to keep electricity more reliable, affordable, and environmentally-friendly. I'm just one of the thousands of workers who are making a career in this industry.

I'm still a taxpayer in Wisconsin and I've seen the county enact a half percent sales tax to try to fill the gap created by the loss of \$11-million in tax payments from the plant. The school district and local technical college are still scrambling to find ways to close the funding gap. The affects have also been felt by the state government which no longer collects its utility tax based on power generation.

My job gives me a good, steady, and stable source of income; benefits for me and my family; and the opportunity to contribute to Ohio's diverse energy mix in order

to keep electricity more reliable, affordable, and environmentally friendly. And I'm just one of the thousands of workers who are making a career in the industry. And the tax revenue the plants provide—more than \$30 million combined in state and local taxes annually—helps strengthen and support the communities in which we live in and work.

If this just up and goes away because our nuclear power plants are forced to retire ahead of their time, that power is not going to be replaced by renewables. It simply cannot—wind and solar can't be scaled up or built quickly enough to do that, and they are intermittent energy sources unable to provide a constant source of power.

Ohio cannot afford to lose its nuclear power plants or the environmental benefits they provide. Nuclear power is hands-down the largest source of zero-carbon-emissions electricity produced in our state, far surpassing even wind and solar. Don't be swayed by the opposition. The cost of updating Ohio's energy policy to recognize the sizeable impact our industry has on protecting our environment; providing clean, reliable, and affordable electricity; and powering Ohio jobs and our economy pales in comparison to the societal costs of losing all these benefits.