

Testimony of Mark W. Stahl

Ottawa County Commissioner

Before the Ohio House of Representatives

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Hearing on Revised Substitute Bill for House Bill 6

May 15, 2019

Chairman Vitale, Vice-Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of the revised substitute bill for House Bill 6 and the important economic and environmental benefits that it provides to Ohio. I am pleased to see that the bill sponsors amended this legislation to strengthen it and ensure that benefits extend to all carbon-free emission sources in the state. I urge you to move forward with approving the substitute version of House Bill 6.

My name is Mark Stahl and I am an Ottawa County Commissioner. I'm here today on behalf of the more than 700 dedicated employees at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and the associated jobs, tax revenue and important contributions that they make to the state of Ohio. As County Commissioner, I think it's important to note that the Davis-Besse plant not only provides these much-needed, highly specialized jobs, but it also contributes to Ohio's clean-energy efforts, providing a steady, reliable, and zero-emissions power source for Ohio homes and businesses.

There are some who are mischaracterizing House Bill 6 as a bailout for Ohio's nuclear power industry. I can tell you that the more than 700 hardworking men and women who keep the Davis-Besse plant running smoothly day in and day out aren't looking for a bailout—all they want is to continue doing the important work

of producing carbon free energy to power our communities. They are asking that we recognize that critical role that nuclear energy provides to achieve 90 percent of the state's clean energy.

If lawmakers fail to pass House Bill 6 and Davis-Besse is forced to close early, these jobs would disappear and so too would our state's energy independence. In fact, if Ohio loses its two nuclear plants, it's estimated that we would need to start importing up to 15 percent more energy from out of state to fill the gap left by nuclear. House Bill 6 is nothing close to a bailout, it should be viewed for what it is—a long-overdue modernization of Ohio's energy policy.

The Ohio Clean Air Program should be examined on its merits. For my constituents in Ottawa County and for average residents across the state, it lowers the cost of electricity that they see on their monthly bill. That will save millions of dollars for the constituents represented by each legislator in this room.

In addition to removing costly monthly mandates and replacing them with a lower monthly amount, this bill will also reform how we allocate resources and prioritize our energy options. Our current energy policy does not reflect the fact that our largest source of clean, carbon-free energy – nuclear power – makes important contributions to our state's economy, environment and energy grid. It's time that we started investing in homegrown sources of carbon free energy – that includes wind, solar, nuclear and others.

The positive environmental impact of our carbon-emission free plants is another key reason to support this bill. As I'm sure you know, House Bill 6 would create a new program to be administered by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, which is expected to contribute \$300 million toward clean and reduced emission energy resources annually upon full implementation. By passing House Bill 6, lawmakers can help ensure nuclear energy—which accounts for 90 percent of the state's zero-carbon emissions generation remains a vital part of our energy mix.

Ottawa county is encouraged by the support received by county government in our region. Ohio is stronger when working together to develop a energy policy that will take us into the future. I urge you to recognize the benefits that nuclear energy brings to our state and recognize the dedicated workforce in Ottawa and Lake county that proudly deliver such benefits.

The clock is ticking and our constituents are counting on you to find a solution that will preserve the immense employment, economic, and environmental benefits that carbon-free sources of power provide to our state. Please take these viewpoints into consideration and pass House Bill 6 without any further delay.

Thank you for your time today.