

## **Mike Musolf, Allen-Clay Joint Fire District, Testimony for HB 6**

First, I'd like to thank the chairman and members of this committee for having me today to provide my testimony. I am here to encourage you all to vote a resounding YES on HB 6, legislation that would create the Ohio Clean Air Program and, among other things, help keep our state's two nuclear power facilities—the Perry Nuclear Power Plant and the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station—operating at full capacity. While you have no doubt heard of the various benefits these plants provide with regard to producing cleaner, carbon-free electricity and supporting a robust state economy, I am here today to offer my perspective on how premature closure of these facilities would undermine emergency response efforts across the state.

For a bit of background, my name is Mike Musolf and I am the District Fire Chief for the Allen-Clay Joint Fire District in Ottawa County, Ohio—the same county in which the Davis-Besse plant is located. When combined with the Perry plant in Lake County, Davis-Besse contributes tens of millions of dollars in taxes every year. To be more exact, the two plants pay more than \$30 million in state and local taxes. This money helps fund critical services that support our communities, including to support our schools as well as lifesaving emergency services like the ones we provide at the Allen-Clay Joint Fire District.

Properly funding emergency responders is already challenging enough and our resources are often stretched thin as it is. I am concerned that if the Perry and Davis-Besse nuclear power plants are forced into an early retirement, thereby siphoning even more funding away from emergency services, then that could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Undermining funding for emergency responders and education will also put some towns and communities in the precarious position of having to choose between scaling back or cutting these vitally important services or else finding new sources of revenue to support them, which translates to higher local taxes. Either way, it's a lose-lose for Ohio residents and communities.

I view passage of HB 6 as an absolute necessity to protect the safety of our communities and support cleaner forms of energy that benefit the entire state. I hope you will as well, and vote YES on this important bill.