

**Testimony of Richard Regovich, Mayor
City of Willowick, Ohio
Submitted to
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Ohio House of Representatives**

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee, I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you in support of HB 6. My name is Richard Regovich, and I am the Mayor of Willowick.

The Willowick community has had a long, proud tradition of being a wonderful place to spend a lifetime. Since taking office in 2016, I have seen Willowick's growing and diverse community fast becoming a focal point of western Lake County. As Mayor of Willowick, I am grateful for the opportunity to testify on the future of Ohio's energy policy. Ohio's current energy policy is flawed and needs to be modernized. As you know, nuclear power produces 90 percent of the state's carbon free electricity and approximately 14 percent of the state's power. The Ohio Clean Air Program is not only an opportunity to modernize our state's energy policy while protecting our environment, it will also lower the cost of electricity for thousands of constituents living in the Lake County community and protect us from price volatility by preserving our fuel diversity.

The average residential customer in Ohio pays fees for multiple charges and mandates on their monthly electric bill. The legislation being discussed today will eliminate those charges and produce savings for Ohio families each year. Ohio's existing energy program does not protect the future of Ohio's carbon-free energy, and without this legislation, the nuclear plants are at risk of closing prematurely and permanently. If this happens, the cost of energy for residential Ohioans could rise anywhere from \$2.50 and \$5.00 per month, according to recent studies.

If passed into law, House Bill 6 will promote zero carbon energy sources that will result in the lowering of Ohio's carbon footprint as well as limiting additional air pollution. Nuclear plants, unlike gas and coal plants, do not emit pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. The legislation would create a new program which will certify Clean Air Resources and Reduced Emissions Resources such as solar, wind and nuclear.

If we allow our state to lose nuclear facilities like the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, we would be reversing the emissions benefits of nearly all the renewable generation that has been installed over the past 25 years. According to one recent report, it would be the equivalent of adding 2 million cars onto Ohio's roads, a 50 percent increase of the total registered automobiles in Ohio. If the plants close, gas and coal will fill the vacuum. This means we would turn our existing diverse energy portfolio into a near monopoly for fossil fuels. This will mean higher prices and more uncertainty in the market.

I urge all members of the committee to remember how important the legislation before you today is, and what it means for the future of Ohio's energy policies. We must protect and preserve our zero-carbon emission sources of electricity.