

## **HB 6 Statement of Support**

**Rick Walker, Councilman, North Perry Village**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, both for the hard work you do day in and day out on behalf of your constituents and all Ohioans as well as for allowing me to present this statement today urging your support for House Bill 6, legislation that would create the Ohio Clean Air Program. My name is Rick Walker and I'm a Councilman for Perry Village.

As you know, North Perry Village is home to the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, one of Ohio's two endangered nuclear facilities, slated for early closure unless HB 6 passes. If this plant were to be closed early, it would have a tremendous impact on the local economy, increasing the unemployment rate in North Perry, hurting hardworking local residents and families, and weakening our local and statewide economy.

The Perry Nuclear Power Plant provides much-needed jobs—ones that are highly skilled and pay well—for over 700 employees, many of whom live in North Perry or surrounding communities. The fact is that unless you pass HB 6, these folks will

be out of a job, plain and simple. That doesn't just impact them—it threatens their families and would have create a negative economic ripple effect that would be felt throughout the community. That's due to the fact that, without jobs, they will be unable to support local businesses.

Moreover, the Perry plant, as well as our state's other nuclear facility, the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station outside of Toledo, spurs economic growth in surrounding communities and across the state—by spending a combined \$45 million with Ohio vendors and suppliers annually. They also pay taxes that help fund community services that we cannot afford to live without. If these plants are forced to close, roughly \$30 million in state and local taxes will simply disappear, which would have a tremendous negative impact on education and emergency services funding across the state. Perhaps that is why 75 percent of Ohio residents support taking action to keep these plants open, according to a recent poll.

Put simply, North Perry and all of Ohio cannot afford to lose the economic contributions these two plants provide our state, not to mention their clean-energy benefits. For the good of your constituents, I urge you to support HB 6.