

**Proponent Testimony of  
Lake County Commissioner Ron Young**

**Before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of  
The Ohio House of Representatives**

**May 15, 2019**

I am Lake County Commissioner Ron Young. I want to speak to you today about the importance of passing House Bill 6 to protect the valuable asset nuclear power production represents for our state.

Spread along the Lake Erie shore north of Cleveland, Lake County is the smallest county in the state geographically but the 11<sup>th</sup> largest by population, with almost 230,000 residents. The Perry nuclear plant is an important source of tax revenue for the county, and the 700 family-wage jobs it supports are a key part of the county's employment base.

The Perry nuclear plant is also a significant supplier of electricity to Lake County and the rest of the state. It provides zero-emission energy that heats and cools our homes and powers manufacturers and other employers.

Lake County is a well-known agricultural center. We are the Nursey Capital of the World and also have award-winning wineries, so protecting the environment is important to us. By generating electricity without putting carbon into the air, the Perry nuclear plant helps our agricultural producers thrive.

Our location on Lake Erie creates opportunities for wind energy production, also a zero-carbon power source, but wind simply cannot compete with nuclear when it comes to clean energy output. Wind, solar, and hydro power combined generate only 2 percent of Ohio's energy supply, compared to the 15 percent generated by Perry and Davis-Besse, the other in-state nuclear plant.

Nuclear plants also generate electricity around the clock, week in, week out, while wind and solar can only contribute when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining. Nuclear plants typically operate at 90 percent capacity, while wind power produces at only 20 percent. Part of nuclear power's importance to our clean energy sector is the support it provides for other carbon-free generating facilities when they are not able to operate. Nuclear power reliably keeps our lights on and factories running.

We cannot let Ohio become a state that is totally dependent on fossil fuels, as we would essentially be if we were to allow Perry and Davis-Besse to close. Other states are wisely working to increase their clean energy production capacity, and we should do the same.

On behalf of my constituents in Lake County, I ask that you do everything in your power to see House Bill 6 approved and our nuclear plants preserved.

Thank you.