

Testimony of Commissioner Scott Miller
Sandusky County Commission
Submitted to
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Ohio House of Representatives

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the Committee, thank you for providing an opportunity for me to appear before you today to urge support for House Bill 6. This legislation will ensure that 90% of the carbon-free electricity produced in Ohio remains available in Ohio. Yes, the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power plants are the dominant producers of clean energy in our state, by a significant margin.

Support for House Bill 6 is an opportunity for lawmakers to make a long-term investment in Ohio's clean energy future. Ohio's existing energy policies fail to provide for the state's largest source of zero-carbon emission energy. House Bill 6 rectifies this omission to ensure that nuclear energy remains available to Ohio while also providing support for other forms of clean energy generation that emit no carbon or reduce emissions, including wind and solar.

House Bill 6, which establishes the Ohio Clean Air Program, is expected to collect \$300 million per year, which will be allocated to energy sources that do not produce carbon emissions or take steps to reduce their carbon emissions – that includes wind, solar, nuclear, and other energy sources – a true all-of-the-above approach. Moreover, the proposed legislation protects the over 4,000 jobs that are a direct result of Ohio's two nuclear plants while also providing the momentum to spur further job growth across Ohio's energy sector.

Finally, if Ohio's nuclear power plants close, they will close permanently and be replaced with fossil fuel burning plants. Burning fossil fuels produces carbon and so-called criteria pollutants such as nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter that cause health problems, and even death. We cannot allow fossil fuels to become Ohio's only source of energy generation – it is bad for the air and bad for the energy market.

HB 6 is a pragmatic approach to modernizing Ohio's energy policies, and I thank you in advance for your support of this legislation.