

Proponent Testimony of
Ottawa County Department of Jobs and Family Services Executive Director
Stephanie Kowal
Before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of
The Ohio House of Representatives
May 15, 2019

Hello, my name is Stephanie Kowal and I'm the Executive Director of the Ottawa County Department of Jobs and Family Services. Thank you to the chairman and committee for allowing me to provide this testimony today. I'm here to urge members of this committee in no uncertain terms to lend your support to HB 6 and help pass this vital piece of legislation, which would protect Ohio jobs, families, and our entire economy.

The Ottawa County Department of Jobs and Family Services helps connect Ottawa residents with jobs and provide valuable resources for families, children, and senior citizens. We work together to assess, understand, and address the needs of our community. Helping Ottawa County residents access employment opportunities is one of our most critical functions, and that is one of the primary reasons I am here to speak out in support of HB 6.

By keeping our state's only two nuclear facilities online, HB 6 would have significant implications for employment in Ottawa County and across our state. The Davis-Besse plant outside of Toledo provides roughly 700 high-skilled, well-paying jobs that support local families. Together with the Cleveland-area Perry nuclear plant, these two facilities are responsible for more than 4,000 jobs, either directly or indirectly. The impact of their closure on the wellbeing of local communities and Ohio families cannot be overstated.

Passing HB 6 would help protect and preserve thousands of Ohio jobs—thereby also supporting thousands of Ohio families, many of which include households with children and seniors, some of our state's most vulnerable residents. On top of that, the legislation takes an incentive-based approach to energy development that will help create even more jobs to support new, emerging sources of clean energy. Anything that will help create more jobs for Ohioans is a good move in my book.

In addition to employing Ohioans, these two plants pay a combined \$30 million in state and local taxes and spend roughly \$45 million with vendors statewide. All of that is

money that recirculates throughout Ohio communities and strengthens local economies. All told, these two plants contribute more than half a billion dollars to our state's GDP annually. These are numbers we can't afford to ignore.

Please support HB 6 and help protect Ohio jobs and families. Thank you.