

Good afternoon Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, members of the Committee. Thank you for accepting my testimony. My name is Lee Blackburn and I'm here today to testify in opposition to **Substitute** House Bill 6, the Ohio Clean **Air** Program. We have heard numerous reasons why HB 6 should be rejected, from its regressive \$2.50 monthly charge to a majority of residential customers who receive nothing in return to its elimination of the alternative energy standards to it simply being a bailout of nuclear reactors that have been bailed out many times before, yet keep coming back for more.

I'm here to mention another reason HB 6 should be rejected; that of radioactive waste, which both reactors produce in abundance. If you've been paying attention to the news lately, you couldn't help but notice the numerous news stories about the radioactive contamination found in the community surrounding the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, a uranium enrichment facility in southern Ohio that enriched the very same fuel used in these decrepit reactors. Uranium was found in a number of locations in and around the Village of Piketon in Pike County, including inside Zahn's Corner Middle School.

What's interesting is that in addition to uranium, other radioactive contamination was found, including neptunium, which causes bone cancer and americium, which not only causes bone cancer, but can damage the liver, lungs, kidneys and thyroid according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interesting because both elements are transuranics, meaning they are manmade, in reactors exactly like Davis Besse and Perry nuclear plants.

The citizens of Piketon were so concerned about the discovery of radioactive contamination inside Zahn's Corner Middle School that they ended the school year early and closed the school. They have good reason to be concerned, according to Jennifer Chandler, a village councilwoman, five children from the area school district have been diagnosed with cancer over the past five years and three of them have died.

According the Ohio Department of Health, Pike County's cancer rate is the second highest of the 88 counties in Ohio. Both Ottawa County, home of Davis Besse and Lake County, home of the Perry reactor, are among the top 20 cancer counties in the state. So, there's good reason to be concerned about the radioactive waste that'll continue to cause cancer if these dilapidated reactors are given yet another ratepayer bailout.

Thank you. Questions?

