

**Ilene Shapiro, County Executive
County of Summit, Ohio**

Testimony before the Ohio Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee on Generation

Chairman Stein, Chairman O'Brien and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Generation, my name is Ilene Shapiro and I am the County Executive for Summit County. Thank you for the opportunity to address you all today.

I am here to testify in support of HB 6, which would create the Ohio Clean Air Program to support clean forms of energy generation, including Ohio's nuclear plants. After hearing from all of the proponents of this legislation, I hope you will understand the importance of advancing this legislation and how vital these nuclear facilities are to the economy and environment of our great State.

Specifically, I am here today to support this legislation because it will assist FirstEnergy Solutions with continuing to generate electricity from its nuclear facilities in the State. FirstEnergy Solutions' nuclear facilities support more than 4,300 jobs in all parts of Ohio, not just in the counties in which the plants are located. Each of those employees, their families, and their communities, including Summit County, are depending on this subcommittee to advance HB 6. Each employee represents a highly skilled worker who will be forced to find a job elsewhere, uproot their family, pull their children from our schools and drain our communities of tax revenue and business activities. In Summit County alone, over 300 employees are employed at FirstEnergy Solutions' Akron headquarters, all of which may face these difficult situations if HB 6 is not passed into law.

For each of the 700 FirstEnergy Solutions' employees at the nuclear facilities and the 300 at the Akron headquarters, there will be many more jobs lost from vendors and service providers

throughout the State who will shut their doors and move away if the plants close. In Summit County alone, FirstEnergy Solutions has spent more than \$9 million over the past five years with 80 vendors. It will be incredibly difficult to fill the void left for those vendors if the nuclear facilities are prematurely shutdown.

Our County and many Ohio counties also depend on the significant tax revenue generated directly and indirectly by the FirstEnergy Solutions' nuclear facilities. The state of Ohio collects about \$30 million from the two nuclear facilities. That does not account for the additional revenue generated for the state and localities from related vendors, property taxes, sales taxes, and hotel taxes. And, as you can imagine, with over 300 employees, FirstEnergy Solutions is one of our major income tax payers in Summit County.

My economic development team is currently working with representatives from the City of Akron and the Greater Akron Chamber to keep FirstEnergy Solutions' headquarters in Summit County. We want to see this company and its employees succeed and we should all be encouraged by the fact that FirstEnergy Solutions is committed to staying and growing in Ohio. While we are working hard at the local level to ensure the company's ongoing success in Summit County, we need the State to be a partner in these efforts. Through HB 6, the State will ensure that FirstEnergy Solutions will remain in the energy generation business, thereby keeping and growing jobs in Summit County and Ohio.

Finally, as County Executive, I support any effort to provide our communities with clean air and a healthy environment. FirstEnergy Solutions' zero-carbon nuclear facilities are critical to our state's clean air future. These two plants are responsible for 90 percent of Ohio's carbon-free electricity generation. Furthermore, the facilities' nuclear-generated electricity is available 24/7 and at affordable prices, which are two necessary ingredients to help attract businesses and investments into our community. We can choose to move forward with clean, reliable nuclear energy or remain in the past and become less competitive in an ever-changing economy.

On behalf of Summit County and our more than 540,000 residents, I urge you to support this legislation and preserve jobs, communities, and Ohio's carbon-free nuclear future.

Thank you.