



**Testimony of Jamie N. Beier Grant**  
**Director, Ottawa County Improvement Corporation**  
**T: 419.898.6242**  
**E: [jbgrant@ocic.biz](mailto:jbgrant@ocic.biz)**

**Before the Ohio House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy Generation**  
**Hearing on House Bill 6 – Reduced Emissions Resource Program**  
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Chairman Stein and members of the Subcommittee on Energy Generation, thank you for having me today. My name is Jamie Beier Grant, and I'm the Director of the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation, an organization that serves as the lead economic and workforce development agency for Ottawa County. I'm grateful for the chance to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 6.

In addition to reading House Bill 6, I watched Speaker Householder's announcement of this legislation last Friday, April 12 where key points of this legislation were outlined. I look at this legislation through two lenses - as an economic development professional and as a taxpayer of the state of Ohio.

From an economic development perspective, I appreciate Speaker Householder's comments about shifting Ohio's clean energy approach from a hammer approach to a carrot approach. Just like consumers, businesses want a healthy environment and clean air. But they understand that achieving a healthy environment and clean air must be done by encouraging, rather than forcing, policy. House Bill 6 incentivizes lower carbon emissions versus forcing mandates.

Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station is located in Ottawa County – the community I represent. Together with the Perry Nuclear Plant to my east, roughly 90% of Ohio’s zero emissions energy generation is represented in these two plants alone. Closure of these facilities would leave Ohio searching for alternative electric generation facilities to replace the two plants; and would leave the state reeling to fill the gap in these carbon-free generation sources. To give some perspective on what closing a facility can lead to environmentally, back in 2014 the Vermont Yankee nuclear station in New England was closed and 604 megawatts of zero emissions capacity was removed from the ISO New England grid. According to the US Energy Information Administration, within a year the Administration recorded an increase of 2.9% in the state’s carbon emission rate. This is something to pay attention to, especially since New England had been following a decade of declines in CO2 emissions prior to the Vermont Yankee plant closure.

According to a study conducted by the Brattle Group, commissioned by local stakeholders, eliminating nuclear from Ohio’s portfolio would result in an estimated increase of 12,600 GWh of gas and 4,300 GWh of coal to replace nuclear power generation, which will likely lead to a rise in air emissions in our state. The total cost of this 9million ton increase in carbon dioxide and other pollutants is estimated at over \$600million per year.

The fact is, nuclear power is helping reduce carbon dioxide and other emissions, providing a cleaner, more sustainable energy supply while maintaining reliability and affordability. This is true for Ohio and our entire country. Ohio has made preserving the health of Lake Erie a major priority, and rightly so. Preserving Ohio’s nuclear generation assets is also critical to the environmental health of our state. Jeopardizing these environmental benefits of emission-free nuclear power is simply not worth it.

House Bill 6 also incentivizes Ohio energy generation.

I know much has already been shared by other interested parties regarding the economic impact that Ohio's nuclear plants contribute to the local, regional and statewide economy. Specific to the Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station, the plant represents 700 full-time employees with an annual total payroll of \$60million. Davis Besse's 700 full-time jobs stimulate another 2,100 jobs in Ottawa County and 1,800 additional jobs in other Ohio industries (a 3:1 ratio of downstream impact). That \$60million of total annual payroll also flows into every aspect of Ohio's economy – residential property ownership, support of local public school districts, professional services, construction and trades, retail, etc. In a 2015 Nuclear Energy Institute report of Davis Besse's economic impact, NEI found that for every dollar of output generated from Davis Besse, our local economy produces \$1.66 in output and the state economy produces \$2.25 in output.

Looking at the 700 employees working daily at the plant sites, it is true that employees at Ohio's nuclear facilities are extremely well educated and highly skilled – it is necessary to safely and efficiently operate these facilities. Engineers, electricians, nuclear navy service members, reactor operators, and security specialties give perspective on the level of education and experience necessary to work in a nuclear power facility. These employees undergo rigorous background checks, and maintain a drug-free and alcohol-free workplace...nuclear plant employees are the best of the best in my opinion. And, in an environment today where it is a constant struggle to find employees able to pass drug tests, the ability of these nuclear plants to ensure a drug-free and alcohol-free workplace is exceptional. In addition, Veterans of every branch of the military make up close to 50% of Davis Besse's workforce. It's because of these skill sets and experience that Davis Besse is in the top quartile for the most efficiently run nuclear facilities in the nation.

And these education and skill levels make nuclear workers extremely marketable and mobile in the workforce. That's great for those individuals if these plants were to close as they can re-engage in the workforce quickly, however because of this mobility, the likelihood they stay in our region or state is severely diminished. Meaning an even

further erosion of our tax base.

For comparison, the Brattleboro Development group in the State of Vermont has predicted and tracked the impact of the recent closure of the Vermont Yankee plant and presented a report in October 2016 entitled “When People and Money Leave (and the Plant Stays).” Brattleboro Development, through a REMI analysis, has seen a reduction in employment at the Vermont Yankee site from 550 employees to 318 employees at the end of 2016. This reduction has led to a reduction in tax base “output” (as they refer to it) of \$380million in the course of one year (from \$493million in output to \$113million). By the year 2020, employment will further be reduced from 318 to 126 employees with an output reduction estimated to leave only \$69million in tax base. By the year 2021, employment will be down to a shell of 24 employees with annual output of just \$5million. That’s a reduction from \$493million in output to \$5million in just 6 years. For a county of 42,000 people like mine, these numbers are gut-wrenching. And the impact that Davis Besse’s closure will have on other industry sectors in Ottawa County (which is comprised mostly of small businesses that rely on community resident spending) will be enormous. Furthermore, at the former Zion Nuclear Plant in Illinois the community saw an increase in property taxes from 8% when the plant was operational to 22% when it closed.

With more than 30 years of operational output capacity left in Davis Besse and Perry, how can we even consider allowing our Ohio communities to experience similar degradation in our economy over a 5 year window like Vermont Yankee? How will Ottawa County’s economic base and tax base even face a fighting chance of rebounding in time to prevent similar devastation?

These numbers are real and they are devastating to face as a small community. And as a state, Ohio has one of the nation’s largest nuclear industry supply chains. So the impact will be felt far beyond just Ottawa County. House Bill 6 preserves the economic landscape of Ohio communities.

House Bill 6 not only preserves the economic landscape of my community, it would help support job creation and capital investment in the state of Ohio. The reason is simple – companies looking to locate in Ohio or grow in Ohio are looking for ways to eliminate as many barriers to success as possible.

In Speaker Householder's press conference he referenced the cost savings House Bill 6 would bring by shifting from current energy efficiency riders to caps placed on customers. A 19% savings on commercial users; a 20% savings for industrial users; and an 89% savings for large users is significant. Reducing air emissions and lowering costs are two attractive measures to growing Ohio's economic base and encourages new technologies to be developed to help all companies find ways to contribute to lower air emissions.

Furthermore, nuclear power ensures Ohio can meet our energy needs without becoming overly reliant on importing energy from other states. If these sites were to close prematurely, Ohio would once again return to being a significant net importer of electricity, importing roughly 12 percent of our aggregate electricity needs. While some of this power could be generated by in-state sources, a large majority would need to be imported from other states, according to the Brattle Group analysis. This means Ohio jobs and resources will be flowing out of state.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank the committee again for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 6. Nuclear power has a place in Ohio's energy generation portfolio. The economic, environmental, and energy security benefits it provides are far from the only reasons it should remain part of our state's energy mix, but to me, they are the most critical. I ask you all to please support this bill and help preserve these facilities as well as the benefits they provide for Ottawa County, northern Ohio, and our entire state. Thank you.