

*House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation*

*Chair Dick Stein and Chair Michael O'Brien*

*Opponent Testimony on House Bill 6*

*Testimony of Hannah Spring*

Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation, my name is Hannah Spring, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent to Ohio House Bill 6. The concern I have for the sustainability of our planet, the health of our air and water, and the wellbeing of all humans in Ohio and beyond is what compels me to testify on this issue. I feel the weight of this concern every single day. I can safely say (without knowing the exact age of either chair or committee member) that I have decades more life to live on this planet than you all do. I have 70 plus years to continue drinking the water and breathing air that you are currently putting in jeopardy with HB 6. I understand how you may feel less accountable or responsible than I to protect these resources. But I implore you to ask yourselves, do you feel responsible for the health of your children and your grandchildren? How about the children of low income families that you do not know personally, but are here to serve? They will also be left with the state of our planet long after you are gone.

I will be honest and say that I am not an Ohio native, but a Michigander born and raised. I am deeply connected to the Great Lakes and all that they provide: which is 84% of North America's surface fresh water and about 21% of the world's supply of surface fresh water. I moved to Ohio very recently to continue my advocacy work for the environment and for all of us whom rely on it. Although I am new to Ohio politics, I am very familiar with the political practice of putting corporate interest over the wellbeing of the people, and of the environment. This practice is always carried out expeditiously, with little to no oversight, and at the expense of public interest. In Michigan, this opportunity arose during the 2018 lame duck session where the easement of a Canadian oil company's 65-year-old pipeline was extended. It sits at the bed of the Mackinac Straights, is very dilapidated and a majority of Michiganders want to see it shut down. Nonetheless, Governor Snyder passed legislation to extend its lifetime to benefit Enbridge Inc shareholders. I see this same strategy being deployed here in Ohio as you attempt to slide HB 6 into the upcoming state budget. This bill undermines our renewable energy standards by instead supporting dilapidated nuclear plants; as well as raises consumer rates, further burdening low income families. Both of these avenues allow you as legislators to continue to meet the needs of corporate shareholders while simultaneously avoiding any explanation to the public on your decisions that will negatively affect their wellbeing and livelihood. I implore you to do a better job of serving us, the people, and not them, FirstEnergy.