

African American Environmentalist Association

Testimony of Derry Bigby

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Before the

Ohio Legislature

House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy
Generation

Public Hearing On

HB 6

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Introduction

My name is Derry Bigby, and I am the vice president of the African American Environmentalist Association (AAEA). We are the nation's oldest African American-led environmental group and we are dedicated to protecting the environment, promoting the efficient use of natural resources, enhancing human, animal and plant ecologies,

promoting increased African American ownership of energy resources and infrastructure and increasing African American participation in the environmental movement.

We support nuclear power in general because the plants do not produce greenhouse gases or smog-forming gases. We are particularly concerned about smog because every metropolitan area in the United States is in noncompliance of the Clean Air Act for ozone. The metropolitan communities are usually considered to be environmental injustice areas because of the disproportionate number of pollution sites located in these neighborhoods.

We support HB 6 because it will help to keep the state's biggest clean air assets open. These assets include the Davis Besse (Unit 1) and Perry facilities.

Purpose

The purpose of this legislation is to create the Ohio Clean Air Program, which will facilitate and encourage electricity production and use from clean air resources, facilitate investment to reduce the emissions from other generating technologies that can be readily dispatched to satisfy demand in real time, and proactively engage the buying power of consumers in this state and for the purpose of improving air quality in this state. This legislation creates the Ohio Air Development Authority (ADA). The ADA is supported by the issuance of Clean Air Revue Bonds (CARB), revenues from which are deposited into the Ohio Clean Air Program Fund (CAPF). We believe this design will work in terms of facilitating reductions in smog and increases in global warming.

Price Design for Emissions Reductions

"Clean air credit" means a credit that represents the clean air attributes of one megawatt hour of electric energy produced from a certified clean air resource. The price for each clean air credit in the first program year shall be nine dollars and twenty-five cents. In subsequent program years, the price may be adjusted for inflation. Davis-Besse and Perry produce approximately 90 percent of Ohio's carbon-free electricity. Their operation avoids more than 11 million tons of carbon emissions each year – equal

to the carbon output of approximately 2.3 million passenger vehicles – and prevents 12,000 tons of nitrogen oxide and 18,000 tons of sulfur dioxide emissions annually. Other states have already taken action to protect the unique value of nuclear power. New York Illinois and New Jersey have recently implemented programs that recognize the value of nuclear plants in their states, and Connecticut is pursuing similar legislation.

Racial Demographics of Asthma in Ohio

As of 2019, Ohio has an estimated population of 11.73 million.¹ The racial diversity among the population in Ohio is currently around 82.2% Caucasians, 12.3% African Americans, 2.6% two or more races, 1.9% Asians, .8% other races, and 0% Natives of North America.²

Noncompliance of the Clean Air Act

All of Ohio’s metropolitan areas do not comply with the Clean Air Act for Ozone. This is a pattern across the United States. Minorities also have asthma rates that are 2 to 3 times as high as Whites. This pattern also represents the importance of keeping our nuclear power plants open. They mitigate air quality degradation.

Conclusion

The Ohio legislature should support the continued operation of Davis Besse and Perry because they represent clean air and environmental justice befits to the state. The most vulnerable among Ohio’s population, the elderly and children will thank you for the rest of their lives for protecting these green energy assets.

¹ Population Preview. <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/ohio-population/>

² Population Preview, https://www.google.com/search?biw=1242&bih=568&ei=6B6-XLvnN47cswWU0YWYCA&q=Ohio+racial+demographics&og=Ohio+racial+demographics&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0j0i22i30i9.16794.25480..25800...1.0..4.431.5529.0j24j2j2....2..0....1..gws-wiz.....6..0i71j35i39j0i131j0i67j0i20i263j0i131i67.9KHy2tvhfjY