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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 Patrick J. O'Connor  
Member, Power of Wind Action Team - Cleveland

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Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation: my name is Patrick J. O'Connor, representing myself. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent to Ohio House Bill 6.

I am a member of the Power of Wind Action Team – Cleveland, a group of non-partisan private citizens working to promote clean, efficient and economical wind power in Ohio.

My testimony today is my own. As a retired salesman with decades of experience helping businesses grow, I look at wind energy as an opportunity: it's development opportunity for rural communities who need growth to fund their schools and local governments, and it's a component-manufacturing opportunity for our industry. Already, there are 61 Ohio facilities engaged in the wind energy industry. We ought to grow this: Generations of Ohioans have skillfully made components that we assemble into finished products. We're good at making things, and making things has provided family wages to generations of Ohioans. We can continue that opportunity for future generations.

I oppose House Bill 6 because it is a bail out of the nuclear energy plants and it does not adequately address and promote other energy generation sources, in particular wind energy. We need a solution that tackles the immediate nuclear situation but not at the expense of forfeiting the economic benefits of wind.

For example, Ohio has lost a billion dollars worth of economic benefits because of the onerous turbine setback requirement. As a result, wind developers have dropped plans for more than 3,300 MW of new wind power for the state. These projects would have powered close to a million homes and created 13,000 jobs as well as provided \$660 million dollars in tax payments to local schools and governments.<sup>1</sup>

Something needs to be done about the nuclear issue, but this is not the bill to do it. Something also needs to be done about expanding Ohio's energy portfolio to include more renewables, but this bill is not going to do that either. Without amending the current restrictive turbine setback requirements we're only blowing in the wind.

I appreciate your time and consideration today. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>1</sup> See accompanying document "Blowing in the Wind: Ohio's Overly Restrictive Wind Setback Law is Putting Billions in New In-State Investment at Risk," page 2 Executive Summary/Key Facts.