

Opponent Testimony on HB 6
House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation
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Co-Chairs Stein and O'Brien and members of the Subcommittee on Energy Generation, thank you for giving me the opportunity to present a few of my concerns in writing about HB 6. My concern is that the purpose of this bill is not to provide clean energy to Ohioans but will be used solely to bailout failing nuclear reactors in Ohio and the increase in energy costs will impose disproportionate burden on poor people in Ohio.

The consumer surcharge of \$2.50/month for residential consumers may not seem like a burden to many of us. However, the threshold beyond which experts believe energy ceases to be affordable is 6% of a household's income and energy poverty is recognized as expenditures just under 10%. Energy expenditures among low-earning households in Ohio are in the range of 28 – 35% in most counties. Programs to provide energy assistance do not cover all who are in need. Ohioans should not have to choose between heating their homes and eating a meal. (1)

Subsidizing the Davis Besse and Perry nuclear power plants is not a good deal for any Ohioans. The Davis Besse and Perry Nuclear Power Plants are a **clear and present danger to public health**.

At the Perry 1 nuclear reactor the risk that an earthquake would cause a severe accident is greater than previously thought, 24 times as high in one case, according to an AP analysis of preliminary government data. (2) In addition, ground water leaks of radioactively contaminated water at Perry. In the past, this contaminated water has made its way onto public lands and into drinking water supplies. Leaks by the controlled and monitored pathways that ensure that the amounts released cause little harm. Plants are legally permitted to release radioactively contaminated water to the environment, but only via controlled and monitored pathways that ensure the amounts released pose little harm to the public. Perry has had at least one near miss in the past year in which the danger of reactor core damage was increased by a factor of 10 requiring heightened NCR attention. (3)

Davis Besse is not in compliance with NRC safety regulations. The risk of fire which can destroy key safety systems leading to a reactor meltdown and the release of radiation. Ground water leaks and a year plus outage are also reported for this reactor. (3) Davis Besse has extensive and growing containment cracks and embrittlement known since 2011. (4)

These plants need to be decommissioned and the workers at these plants who are familiar with them should be employed throughout this process. Ohio should be a leader in creating jobs in the renewable industries by investing in wind, solar and conservation as alternatives to carbon based and nuclear power (which is not carbon neutral throughout the entire production process).

I sincerely hope that elected representatives in Ohio will choose to invest in renewables and conservation as a true step forward by considering the health, economic vitality of Ohio for all its citizens now and in the future generations.

- 1) Where the Poor Spend More Than 10 Percent of Their Income on Energy. Adam Chandler, The Atlantic, June 8, 2016. <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/06/energy-poverty-low-income-households/486197/>
- 2) Perry nuclear reactor's risk of severe earthquake damage is 24 times as high as previously thought. https://www.cleveland.com/nation/2011/09/perry_nuclear_reactors_risk_of.html
- 3) Union of Concerned Scientists database.
- 4) [Davis-Besse cracks to be repaired](#), Journal Entry by admin on September 8, 2017.