

**Dorsey Hager, Executive Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council**  
**Ohio House Committee on Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee on Generation**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Generation: My name is Dorsey Hager and I am the Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Columbus/Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council. Thank you for the opportunity to represent the building trades at this important hearing. I am here in support of House Bill 6.

The Columbus/Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council has represented skilled union workers for more than 57 years and currently represents more than 18,000 workers from 19 affiliated local unions and District Councils. Clean energy jobs have transformed communities across the Buckeye state, pumping valuable tax revenue into local economies that depend upon it. This is particularly evident in rural areas that once struggled to attract jobs and investment. But the entire state has benefitted.

Before solar panels and wind turbines dotted Ohio's landscape, two nuclear plants were built to supply zero-carbon emission electricity to millions of Ohioans. For years, these plants have provided clean, affordable, around-the-clock electricity. However, if the legislature fails to pass House Bill 6, the state's nuclear plants face an uncertain future that threatens the security and stability of our skilled workforce. If the plants are prematurely shut down, thousands of our members and their families will suffer and it will have a detrimental effect on our region's highly-trained, highly-skilled workforce. We urge members of this subcommittee to not only pass this legislation, but to do so without delay before the full effects of the current uncertainty take hold.

Our organization is proud of the highly-skilled workers that help maintain our nuclear facilities and contribute to growing the economy throughout the state, thanks to clean, affordable and always available electric generation. Early retirements of these plants would have an untold ripple effect on jobs throughout the state. From suppliers to hotels to restaurants, local businesses will feel the pain if these plants close. We are not just talking about Ottawa and Lake Counties. Ohio's nuclear plants support more than 4,300 jobs, including suppliers here in Columbus as well as in Cincinnati, Youngstown, Cleveland, and counties and cities in between. In fact, it has been estimated that our nuclear plants pump \$510 million annually into our state's economy.

A nuclear power plant creates between 400 and 700 permanent jobs per every 1,000 megawatts of electricity generation capacity. That is compared to only 50 jobs for natural gas plants. Further, for every 100 direct jobs at a nuclear power plant, the local economy produces an additional 66 jobs. In addition to preserving jobs, the Ohio Clean Air Program will also eliminate charges on residential electricity bills, saving millions of dollars for our members and families across Ohio.

These high-skilled jobs at the state's nuclear facilities are high-paying, and Ohio's nuclear plants are known for their high safety standards. We should be looking for opportunities to create more of these types of jobs in Ohio, not lose the good jobs that we already have.

Last October, I wrote in the Dispatch that once the election season was over, our leaders should do everything they can to protect our nuclear jobs and the economic security these jobs bring to workers and their families. I am pleased that this Subcommittee is moving forward with a proposal that would do just that, by more fully recognizing the benefits that clean and reliable nuclear power bring to our economy and the environment.

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 6 and to move forward expeditiously.