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IBEW Local 245

**Ohio House Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Generation**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in support of House Bill 6, the Ohio Clean Air Program bill. My name is Larry Tscherne and I am the Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 245. We represent more than 800 electrical professionals across Northwest Ohio, including 218 Maintenance, Warehouse, Operations, Chemistry and Radiation Protection professionals who work full-time at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. IBEW Local 1413 represents another approximately 160 security personnel at the plant. On behalf of union workers throughout Ohio, I strongly support the passage of House Bill 6 because it will promote clean energy, protect jobs and make electricity more affordable in Ohio.

Ohio's nuclear power plants provide economic, environmental, and security benefits for the citizens throughout the state. The plants are a source of thousands of good jobs, affordable and reliable electricity, and a substantial portion of the entire state's economy. Nuclear energy is necessary for the safety of communities by providing reliable electric power, and vital tax revenues that fund emergency response services, public schools and more. And, nuclear power operates in the face of severe weather or disastrous circumstances that would otherwise leave families and communities without electricity. Just look at the severe cold snap we had last winter: our nuclear plants didn't miss a beat.

Ohio's production of nuclear energy reduces reliance on imported energy from other states. If nuclear plants continue to close, costs to Ohioans will be higher than the cost to keep the plants open. Let me repeat that: it would cost more to let these plants die than to keep them running. Furthermore, 517 union members, hundreds of non-represented employees, and thousands of contractors assist with plant operations and improvement projects, refueling, and maintenance. The loss of nuclear power plants will leave many of these Ohioans without good-paying jobs.

If we do not pass the Ohio Clean Air Program, the economic losses will ripple throughout the regional and state economies. Our nuclear plants

contribute more than \$500 million to Ohio's economy each year from the business generated directly and indirectly. Additionally, FirstEnergy Solutions, the plants' owner, spends more than \$45 million a year with vendors and suppliers from all over the state – from Ashtabula to Worthington, from Toledo to Cincinnati. The state and the communities in which these plants and suppliers are located cannot afford to lose such a strong economic driver.

Ohio's nuclear plants account for 90% of Ohio's clean energy and 14% of the state's electricity overall. Other forms of clean power such as wind and solar simply cannot replace the amount of clean energy produced by nuclear power.

I recently read that Speaker Householder recently said, "It's about all of the above" and that we need various energy sources in Ohio." I agree completely. However, the truth is renewables like solar and wind don't come close to generating enough energy to keep our lights on and our air conditioners running. Only nuclear energy can produce abundant, reliable, and emissions-free power.

Clean and reliable energy from nuclear plants is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. I would also point out that our state is not alone in this challenge. Other states, including New Jersey, New York, and Illinois, have enacted policies to better reflect the value that nuclear power brings to the table. Additionally, our neighbors in Pennsylvania are focusing on this issue right now. The Ohio Clean Air Program bill protects and enhances Ohio's economic well-being and the future of clean energy. We should not let go of these valuable assets that can and should operate for many years to come.

Finally, I've seen that some are calling this bill a bailout. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our local is in Rossford. The thousands of employees working at these plants and the supply chain that support them are all Ohioans and your constituents.

I want to thank Representatives Callender and Wilkin for taking the lead on this important issue, and I urge you to adopt the Ohio Clean Air Program to save consumers money, preserve good-paying jobs and as an investment in the future of clean energy and all Ohioans.