

**Date:** April 23, 2019

**Resolution No. 19-376**

**Title:** Opposition to Ohio House Bill 6

**Department/Agency:** Commissioners

**Contact:** Michael K. Hart, Executive Assistant

**Summary/Background:** The Ohio House has introduced HB6, which would create the so-called Ohio Clean Air Program. Despite the name, is not intended to offer cleaner air for Ohioans. It is intended to offer a large long-term subsidy to nuclear generating facilities found in Ohio and, potentially, elsewhere in the US. These annual payments would amount to another multi-billion-dollar bailout of facilities that consumers in Ohio already paid billions to transition to free and open competitive markets.

Ohioans are benefiting from the abundance of natural gas that is driving down the cost of electricity supplies in Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the nation. This highly competitive market would be inhibited by the potentially unending subsidy provided for these facilities.

The \$300 million annual charge to Ohio consumers would also eliminate energy efficiency benchmarks that offer rebates and long-term savings to customers. In addition, the legislation would allow the utilities to keep continue collecting millions in shared savings on consumers' energy efficiency efforts that reward utilities for abiding by Ohio Law.

Lucas County was a founding member of the Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition (NOAC). NOAC is currently comprised of 14 other communities in Lucas, Wood and Fulton Counties. The 125,000 participants in the electricity aggregation programs have saved over \$86 million from the aggregation program.

The Oregon Clean Energy Center has invested another \$1 billion in a state of the art natural gas generating plant in Lucas County. The developers are intending to expand and invest another \$1 billion in an additional natural gas generation facility in this County. Lucas County and other NOAC communities oppose additional subsidies for generating assets that are supposed to be competing in the market.

**Budget Impact:** N/A

**Statutory Authority/ORC:**

**Commissioner Byers offered the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, in consideration of the above, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio, that:

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Section 1. The Board does hereby oppose HB6 and requests that all members of the Ohio House of Representatives oppose this legislation.

Section 2. The Board does hereby support assistance via job training and educational assistance to any workers laid off through the potential closure of the generation facilities in Ottawa and Lake Counties.

Section 3. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in those formal actions were in meeting open to the public in compliance with the law.

Section 4. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

**Action Taken:**

Commissioner Byers voted yes  
Commissioner Gerken voted yes  
Commissioner Skeldon Wozniak voted yes

  
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Jody L. Balogh, Clerk