

**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 Michele Timmons
Reynoldsburg, OH resident and Moms Clean Air Force Volunteer**

April 23, 2019

Chairman Stein, Chairman O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation, my name is Michele Timmons, and I am a resident of Reynoldsburg, Ohio. I am a small business owner, an educational policy consultant and volunteer with Moms Clean Air Force. Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition to House Bill 6.

I started volunteering with Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio nearly seven years ago. My then young son JP suffers with asthma that is exacerbated on bad air quality days—a condition we know all too well in Ohio. I was at first encouraged to hear that members of the Ohio House of Representatives had introduced legislation to establish the Ohio Clean Air Program. Reducing emissions from power plants and investing in clean energy sources and energy efficiency programs are goals I have supported for decades.

But a quick read of the legislation itself revealed that instead of positioning our state for a cleaner energy future, Ohio consumers would be footing the bill for old, dirty generation sources like nuclear, coal, and natural gas. Renewable energy and energy efficiency programs would be effectively repealed, tying the hands of those bringing true clean energy development to the state.

Improving air quality in the state requires an emphasis on cleaner energy sources, conservation, and energy efficiency. A genuine focus on reducing emissions would include a transition from polluting sources to cleaner alternatives. This bill does the exact opposite by putting the profits of energy giants like First Energy ahead of public health.

According to the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report for 2018, more than one million Ohioans (180,000 children) live with asthma every day, and nearly 865,000 individuals have cardiovascular disease. For these Ohioans, bad air quality days change the way they live their lives.

Attempts made by members of the Ohio House of Representatives to disguise a bailout of Ohio's two old, uncompetitive nuclear power plants as a Clean Air Program is a slap in the face to those who work everyday to improve air quality in our state or those who suffer from pollution-related illnesses.

I ask that you reconsider the current version of House Bill 6 and instead work with stakeholders from across all sectors to develop a comprehensive energy plan for Ohio. If you do choose to move forward with this proposal to hand over ratepayer dollars to big utilities like First Energy, then just call it what it is: a consumer-funded utility bailout bill. Hiding behind concepts like clean air, reduced emissions and public health are disingenuous at best and hypocritical at worst.

I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 6.