

Remarks of Michael Joyce
Engineering Manager
Orrvilon Inc.

Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Ohio State Senate
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Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee -

My name is Michael Joyce. I am the Engineering Manager for Orrvilon Inc., a producer of metal matrix composites that are used in the vessels that store spent nuclear fuel. We employ approximately 180 to 200 people at our facility in Orrville, Ohio.

Orrvilon is an example of a local company that contributes to, but also depends on, a vibrant civilian nuclear power sector. Using globally sourced raw materials, we produce specialized and patented products called Metamic and Metamic HT, which we then use to produce the spent nuclear storage systems, for long-term dry storage of spent nuclear fuel. We also produce materials and spent fuel storage racks for temporary wet storage of spent nuclear fuel.

We sell our products to nuclear generating facilities throughout the state and the country, including to the Perry and Davis Besse plants here in Ohio.

To support our manufacturing efforts, in 2018 we spent millions of dollars on supplies, consumables, and services, with over half of those purchases coming from 251 different Ohio-based vendors. We process over 2.4 million pounds of raw materials, all of which are transported by over-the-road trucking.

As you might guess, our business is very technical and demands significant knowledge and skill. We have a highly-trained workforce in Orrville to carry out our specialized manufacturing processes, including an operation known as Friction Stir Welding. All Orrvilon employees complete a rigorous training program to develop the skills necessary to operate our specialized equipment.

We are also highly engaged with the local community. We work closely with the Wayne County Career Center, where we sponsor a learning center for welding technology. We also participate in the annual Manufacturing Day sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce, where we host high school students for plant tours and provide demonstrations of our manufacturing technologies.

Businesses like ours depend on a robust civilian nuclear sector in this country. Unfortunately, we have watched as 13 nuclear reactors have been shut down in the United States since 2012, while an additional 20 are at risk of shutting down over the next few years. Davis-Besse and Perry are two such plants.

These closures affect more than just the thousands of employees who work at the nuclear facilities. According to the Nuclear Energy Institute, 66 additional jobs are created in local communities for every 100 nuclear power plant jobs. These jobs up and down the supply chain are vital to our communities and to the state of Ohio. And they are essential to the livelihood of our employees and their families.

These jobs are also vital to our national defense and country's security. For decades, our civilian nuclear power industry, including companies like Orrvilon, has led the world in investment and innovation with profound benefits for our country's defense capabilities.

The United States' technological advantage has allowed the country to take a leadership role in promoting best safety practices and non-proliferation issues globally. The jobs we lose if more nuclear plants close therefore represent far more than the immediate hit to our state and local economies. We risk ceding our position as global leader on nuclear security matters.

We urge you to support the House Bill 6. Nuclear power is a critical component of our economic, environmental, and security future. The proposed bill is an important step toward preserving our nuclear plants. It recognizes the value of the nuclear power sector and provides much-needed support for thousands of jobs and vendors across the state.

Thank you for your time and attention.