



# BUILDING LABORERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 310

*Affiliated with Laborers' International Union of North America – AFL-CIO*

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## **Written Testimony of Terry Joyce Business Manager, Laborers Local 310**

June 12, 2019

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Minority Member Williams, and Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee –

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 6. My name is Terry Joyce, and I am the Business Manager of the Building Laborers Union Local 310, based in Cleveland.

I am a member of the Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance – along with more than 40 other labor unions across the state including roofers, insulators, pipefitters, sheet metal workers, painters, plumbers, teamsters, boilermakers, plasterers, electricians, AFL-CIO members, and many more.

Together, our unions represent thousands of hardworking Ohioans who support refueling, maintenance, and other projects at both the Cleveland-area Perry Nuclear Power Plant as well as the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station just outside of Toledo. In addition to my role with the Local 310, I am also proud to serve as President of the Cleveland Building Trades, which represents more than 15,000 tradespeople working to support the operations at these two plants on an ongoing basis.

Unless the Senate acts to pass HB 6, these nuclear plants will be forced to retire prematurely. As you can imagine, an uncertain future for these plants means an uncertain future for the building trades industry and thousands of workers in Ohio.

If these plants are forced to close their doors, many of our state's highly-trained, specialized workers could be forced into early retirement themselves. In the alternative, they may simply move away, taking their skills elsewhere, almost certainly outside of Ohio.

As Ohio starts to lose its skilled tradespeople and workforce, it will make it that much harder to attract and retain new businesses and industries moving forward. Opportunities to attract the next generation of skilled trade workers will only continue to shrink—and with it, the strength of our local economies and the vibrancy of our communities.

On behalf of the Laborers Local 310 and the other unions that are members of the Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance, we express our wholehearted support for House Bill 6 and urge that this Committee consider the impact that allowing these nuclear plants to close prematurely will have on our members, on jobs, and on communities across the state.

Ohio's labor unions are proud of our highly trained, skilled construction workers that help complete plant projects on time and on budget. Our members support safe, reliable electricity generation to power our state, and I can attest to the high degree of professionalism and high standards of safety under which both of Ohio's nuclear plants operate.

Approximately every two years, each of the two plants shuts down temporarily to perform routine and preventative maintenance, replace fuel, conduct various safety inspections, and so on. These outages last up to six weeks and involve thousands of additional contract workers, including members of Local 310. Highly skilled boilermakers, ironworkers, laborers, electricians, insulators, pipefitters, bricklayers, and other craftsmen work in shifts to complete the work safely, efficiently, and quickly.

While temporary, these are high-paying jobs that provide a significant boost to local economies. Furthermore, when our members relocate temporarily to work at these plants, they help support a range of local businesses, ranging from local hotels and restaurants to gas stations, laundromats, and more. Many of these communities have come to rely on the economic activity our members generate when they service these plants.

If the Davis-Besse and Perry plants are forced to close, it would not only impact these opportunities that help our members put food on the table, but it would also threaten the thousands of jobs the plants support directly or indirectly and entire communities. In fact, one study found that closure of these plants would cost 4,300 jobs and deprive Ohio of \$30 million in state and local taxes that benefit our communities annually.

Ohio cannot afford to lose these plants. It would be detrimental to our members, undermine local communities, and jeopardize our state's entire economy.

Please help support union families and Ohio communities by supporting House Bill 6.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry P. Joyce".

**Terry Joyce**  
**Business Manager, Laborers Local 310**