

Ohio State Senate  
Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

June 12, 2019

To the Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

We, the undersigned, write today to express our support for House Bill 6 (HB 6), legislation that would promote in-state carbon-free energy generation, protect Ohio jobs and our economy, and result in lower monthly utility bills for Ohio homes and businesses. Now that the House has taken the critical first step in passing HB 6, the Senate must advance this vital legislation and help modernize Ohio's existing energy policy, which is flawed and in need of reform.

Currently, Ohio's energy policy fails to protect the state's largest and most reliable source of clean energy—nuclear power, which accounts for 90 percent of zero carbon emission energy produced in the entire state. Unlike natural gas or coal-fired plants, Ohio's two nuclear plants produce zero carbon emissions. They also do not emit other pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxide, which contributes to poorer air quality conditions that adversely affect the health and well-being of Ohioans. If the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear plants are forced to close down and go offline prematurely, the energy that will almost certainly replace them will come from a less clean source, undermining our ability to lower our carbon footprint and limit air pollution.

While ensuring we remain on track to reduce emissions, HB 6 will also protect Ohio jobs and communities across the state. Ohio's two nuclear power facilities support 4,300 Ohio jobs either directly or indirectly—and they spend \$45 million with local vendors and suppliers, helping stimulate other areas of our state's economy and support businesses throughout the state. Combined, the Perry and Davis-Besse plants also pay upwards of \$30 million in state and local taxes, which goes back into supporting services like public schools, first responders, and other community services.

Furthermore, this legislation will help keep energy prices down for Ohioans—both by eliminating costly mandates that are currently factored into utility bills and by maintaining Ohio’s energy diversity and energy independence. Without HB 6—and if these plants are taken offline early—the average residential electricity bill will increase and Ohio may even have to import costlier, dirtier energy from out of state.

HB 6 is absolutely critical in order to update our state’s energy policy and preserve Ohio’s largest source of emissions-free energy—not to mention protect thousands of local jobs, strengthen our communities and economy, as well as keep energy costs for Ohio homes and businesses low. Please help keep Ohio strong and pass HB 6 without delay.

Sincerely,

Rick Amos, Perry Township Trustee  
Quinton Babcock, Mayor, Village of Oak Harbor  
Jerry Cirino, Commissioner, Lake County  
Mark Coppeler, Ottawa County Commissioner  
Gina Cottrell, President, Ellis & Watts  
Robert Dawson, Perry Township Trustee  
Richard Denning, Retired Professor, Ohio State University  
Don Douglas, Ottawa County Commissioner  
Dan Frederick, Milan Township Trustee  
Lew Galante, Chief Financial Officer, Perry Schools  
Jamie Beier Grant, Ottawa County Improvement Corporation  
Dorsey Hager, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Columbus/Central Ohio Building Trades Council  
John Hamercheck, Commissioner, Lake County  
Hal Hawk, CEO, Crown Battery, Ottawa County  
Stephanie Kowal, Executive Director, Ottawa County Department of Jobs and Family Services  
Ed Klco, Mayor, North Perry  
Steve Levorchick, Sheriff, Ottawa County  
Scott Marn, Councilman, City of Mentor  
James McDonald, Fire Chief, Perry Joint Fire District  
Steve Millard, President and CEO, Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce  
Sonny Nardi, President, Teamsters Local 416  
Jerry Nickoli, Milan Township Trustee  
Guy Parmigian, Superintendent, Benton-Carrol-Salem School District  
Robert Paro, President, Teamsters 1164  
Fred Petersen, Executive Director, Ottawa County Emergency Management Agency  
Robert M. Purgert, President, The Energy Industries of Ohio  
James Sass, Ottawa County Commissioner

Julia Schick, LakeTran  
Mike Shover, Milan Township Trustee  
Mark Stahl, Ottawa County Commissioner  
Nancy Steele, Perry Township Trustee  
Joe Tate, Owner, Total Energy Systems Technologies Inc.  
David Thomas, Auditor, Ashtabula County  
Jack Thompson, Superintendent, Perry Local Schools  
Brian Titus, Councilman, North Perry Village  
Larry Tscherne, Business Manager, I.B.E.W. Local 245  
Bryan Williams, Chairman, Summit County GOP  
Ron Young, Commissioner, Lake County

CC:

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