

**Written Testimony of Mark W. Stahl, Ottawa County Commissioner**

**Ohio Senate Committee on Energy and Public Utilities Hearing for House Bill 6**

**June 12, 2019**

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of House Bill 6 and the important economic and environmental benefits that it provides to Ohio. I urge you to move forward with approving House Bill 6 so that legislation can be signed into law as soon as possible.

My name is Mark Stahl and I am an Ottawa County Commissioner. I'm here today on behalf of the more than 700 dedicated employees at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and the associated jobs, tax revenue and vital contributions that they make to the state of Ohio. As County Commissioner, I think it's important to note that the Davis-Besse plant not only provides these much-needed, highly specialized jobs, but it also contributes to Ohio's clean-energy efforts, providing a steady, reliable, and zero-emissions power source for Ohio homes and businesses.

There are some who are mischaracterizing House Bill 6 as a bailout for Ohio's nuclear power industry. I can tell you that the more than 700 hardworking men and women who keep the Davis-Besse plant running smoothly day in and day out aren't looking for a bailout—all they want is to continue doing the important work of producing carbon free energy to power our communities. They are asking that we recognize that critical role that nuclear energy provides to achieve 90 percent of the state's clean energy.

If lawmakers fail to pass House Bill 6 and Davis-Besse is forced to close early, these jobs would disappear and so too would our state's energy independence. In fact, if Ohio loses its two nuclear plants, it's estimated that we would need to start importing up to 15 percent more energy from out of state to fill the gap left

by nuclear. House Bill 6 is nothing close to a bailout, it should be viewed for what it is—a long-overdue modernization of Ohio’s energy policy.

The Ohio Clean Air Program should be examined on its merits. For my constituents in Ottawa County and for average residents across the state, it lowers the cost of electricity that they see on their monthly bill. That will save millions of dollars for the constituents represented by each legislator in this room.

In addition to removing costly monthly mandates and replacing them with a lower monthly amount, this legislation will also reform how we allocate resources and prioritize our energy options. Our current energy policy does not reflect the fact that our largest source of clean, carbon-free energy – nuclear power – makes important contributions to our state’s economy, environment and energy grid. It’s time that we started investing in homegrown sources of carbon free energy – that means nuclear power right here in Ohio.

The positive environmental impact of our carbon-emission free plants is another key reason to support this bill. By passing House Bill 6, lawmakers can help ensure nuclear energy – which accounts for 90 percent of the state’s zero-carbon emissions generation – remains a vital part of our energy mix.

Ohio is stronger when working together to develop an energy policy that will take us into the future. I urge you to recognize the benefits that nuclear energy brings to our state and recognize the dedicated workforce in Ottawa county and across the state that proudly delivers such benefits.

The clock is ticking and our constituents are counting on you to find a solution that will preserve the immense employment, economic, and environmental benefits that nuclear power provides to our state. Please take these viewpoints into consideration and pass House Bill 6 without any further delay.