

## Ohio Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee

Written Testimony of Daniel Rogatto

Plant Manager Avon Lake Power Station, Genon

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Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to Substitute House Bill 6 ("Sub HB 6").

My name is Dan Rogatto and I am the Plant Manager of the Genon Avon Lake Power Plant. I have 38 years of service within power plants and worked for almost 20 years for First Energy. The Avon Lake plant is primarily a coal fired plant located about 25 miles west of Cleveland. The original construction of the plant goes back to the 1920's and at one time we had ten generating units operating here. Over the past 90 years we have seen a great deal of changes in the power generation industry. The most dramatic happened back in the late 90's with deregulation. Prior to this time plants ran whenever they were available and had no real idea of their cost structure. There was no pressure to save money, be efficient and be competitive. Projects that saved fuel were often not approved because that cost was automatically passed on to the consumer. Today a plant only runs when it can cover its costs and make a profit (More like traditional economic practices). We have a product to sell and if we can't make it competitively no one buys it. The MW we produce at Avon Lake is no different than one made anywhere else. It can't come in different colors or shapes it is all about price. That is why the employees at Avon Lake have come together as a team to lower our costs thru improving our heat rate, chemical usage, reducing

contractor costs when we can by doing the work ourselves and improving our manpower efficiency. Our employees have worked hard over the past three years to put ourselves in a better competitive position.

Now this is where we come to House Bill 6. This bill, I believe will destroy the level economic playing field in Ohio. It will give a major competitive advantage to a few. When we had to spend multi millions at this plant to make us air emissions compliant we did not reach out to the state to help provide dollars, so we can survive. We had to do it on our own. Economics drive change, new ideas and people do what they thought previously was impossible. Make First Energy work for their livelihood, don't just give them money because they asked for it. This sounds like the old days when Utilities wanted to spend more money, so they just went to the PUCO and asked for it and the consumers electric bill went up.

I am just thinking about the employees here at Avon Lake. They have worked hard and made a sacrifice to make a difference. It does not seem fair that their jobs will be in increased jeopardy and at the same time pay higher electric bills because of HB6.

I would also like to extend an invite for you to come visit the Avon Lake plant and meet our employees.