

Good afternoon, Chairman Beagle, Vice Chairman LaRose, Ranking Minority Member Williams and members of the Senate Public Utilities Committee. I'm Arno Hill, Mayor of the Village of Lordstown in Trumbull County.

As I recently testified in the Ohio House in response to the proposed nuclear ZEN legislation, Lordstown has historically been best known for the Lordstown Assembly, a General Motors plant where we proudly manufacture the Chevrolet Cruze. Today, we are proud to be known for another major job-creator and industry emerging in Ohio and that is natural gas-fueled electricity, thanks to the existing deregulated market Ohio has enjoyed since 1999.

That said, our region has certainly had its share of ups and downs. In fact recently, we have had several significant lay-offs at the Lordstown GM plant. In addition across Northeast Ohio four different coal plants have retired. These two happenings might lead one to believe that our future in Lordstown does not look bright. However, that future is bright because of the private investments from the non-utility business sector in natural gas-fired electricity generation in our region.

Soon Lordstown will have two of these state of the art natural-gas fired power plants. Lordstown Energy Center will produce 800MW of energy and represents an investment in our community of \$890 million. The plant is expected to come online in early 2018. The Clean Energy Future-Trumbull project will generate another 940MW and is another \$865 million invested directly in our community.

And that's just in Lordstown. Similar projects are operational in Fremont, Ohio and in various stages of development in Oregon, Ohio.

Together these plants represent thousands of jobs with millions of man-hours. For just one plant the construction and ancillary economic activity associated with the plant would produce an additional \$14.5 million in state and local tax revenues.

This doesn't even account for the millions of dollars our local school districts will receive for property tax payments and charitable giving.

In fact just recently I was attending a groundbreaking for our soccer fields, which are the direct result of funding generated from these projects. In addition, we've welcomed strong philanthropic support and real investment into our community by these companies as well, whether it be through funding local uniforms at our schools, helping the United Way, and even partnerships with Youngstown State University so our kids can have hands-on experience—the investment made is real, its heartfelt, and most importantly has not come with strings attached.

The investment into our community has been holistic and has spurred a newfound interest in Lordstown for other economic activity as well. As the economic impact study correctly predicted, these plants absolutely have a ripple impact on the community in a very positive way.

Passing SB 155 puts all of that investment in jeopardy.

Further, these projects come with no additional investment needed from Lordstown, Trumbull County or the state of Ohio. Nor do these investments come on the backs of ratepayers in our community. To the contrary, the operation of natural gas-fired electricity is estimated to save Ohioans over \$3 billion per year through "Customer Choice".

SB 155, like FirstEnergy's nuclear bailout being considered by this body, undermines private investment in electric generation by offering an out-of-market payment to generation that is no longer competitive. Such subsidies distort the market signals that investors rely upon. And they jeopardize the tremendous potential for ratepayers' savings.

If SB 155 is passed, Ohio is sending a message to investors and market participants that Ohio is willing to retreat from free market principles and pick winners and losers at the expense of non-incumbent participants and ratepayers. Without a level-playing field, investments like the Lordstown Energy Center and Trumbull Energy Center may not happen.

Subsidizing a 60 year-old coal plant that carries \$1.4 billion in long-term debt is not worth these negative consequences to investment in Ohio.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote no on SB 155.