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Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chair Nino Vitale
Written Opponent Comments on Substitute House Bill 6
Jane Harf, Executive Director, Green Energy Ohio

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Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Jane Harf and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments to you today as an opponent to Substitute Ohio House Bill 6. Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices.

While we appreciate the changes made in the Subcommittee, we believe that the legislation before you remains a tax on ratepayers that will only prop up aging and unsustainable nuclear plants, while at the same time inhibiting the development and deployment of new energy technologies that are engines of economic development for the state and its citizens.

Green Energy Ohio believes that any serious attempt to reduce carbon emissions must focus on the development and installation of clean energy technologies. House Bill 6 will ultimately only serve one company in the Ohio market and will do nothing to bolster the Ohio economy or our workforce. GEO implores Ohio's legislators and policymakers to enact forward-thinking policies that encourage a diverse energy portfolio, not favor legacy generation that can no longer compete in a 21st century energy market. The overwhelming opposition from individuals and organizations across the ideological spectrum is evidence of the misguided policy direction that this bill represents.

Ohio is home to more than 112,486 jobs in the clean energy sector, 5,000 of which were added in 2018. Wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass installations are all thriving in Ohio, along with the supply chain that serves them. Customers from the largest corporations to individual homeowners are turning to clean energy options for cost savings and carbon reduction. GEO believes that continued investment in innovative, clean technologies will stimulate economic growth, protect public health and the environment, and ensure a secure future for generations of Ohioans. We sincerely hope that Ohioans are provided the collaborative and deliberative public policy process they deserve and Green Energy Ohio looks forward to participating in that process. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide these written comments.