

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairman Nino Vitale
Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 6

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Chair Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name Patrick J. O'Connor, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent to Ohio Substitute House Bill 6.

Ohio needs a comprehensive Energy Policy. Substitute House Bill No. 6 is not the answer. Bi-Partisanship is how we can achieve it.

This bill pits Ohioans against Ohioans.

It pits small businesses against big businesses. Small manufacturers like Berea Manufacturing are disproportionately impacted while FirstEnergy Solutions, a bankrupt former FirstEnergy subsidiary, would get a bail out. (See attached article "Proposed Ohio 'clean energy' bill could disproportionately harm some small businesses" The Plain Dealer, May 5, 2019).

This bill pits emerging energy producers against entrenched energy interests. For example, wind development has languished because of the onerous setback requirement. In fact, Ohio has lost a billion dollars worth of economic benefits because of the restrictive turbine setback requirement. As a result, wind developers have dropped plans for more than 3,300 MW of new wind power for the state. These projects would have powered close to a million homes and created 13,000 jobs as well as provided \$660 million dollars in tax payments to local schools and governments. Substitute House Bill No. 6 needs to include correcting the wind turbine setback requirement. (See accompanying document "Blowing in the Wind: Ohio's Overly Restrictive Wind Setback Law is Putting Billions in New In-State Investment at Risk," page 2 Executive Summary/Key Facts).

This bill pits struggling Southern Ohio against prosperous Northern Ohio. The proposed legislation will provide relief to the school districts covered by the two nuclear power plants by helping to keep them whole while the Southern Ohio coal fired plants devaluation will accelerate the further erosion of the tax base of these school districts and forcing massive cuts. (See attached testimonies before the Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation, April 24, 2019 from: Jude Meyers, Superintendent, Gallia County Local Schools; Michelle Lemaitre, Electrical Maintenance Supervisor and Bob Scott, Maintenance Supervisor, both from the Gavin Power Plant in Gallia County).

Ohio needs a comprehensive energy policy built on bi-partisan consensus. We need an energy plan that takes into account all stakeholders and all energy sources.

I appreciate your time and consideration today, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.