

Testimony in support of HB 6: Ed Hanlon

Hello, and thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of the committee today to offer my perspective on the need to pass House Bill 6. My name is Ed Hanlon and I'm an Associate Nuclear Technician at the Perry Nuclear Plant. I believe HB 6 is absolutely necessary to help protect Ohio jobs and workers.

As you know, our state's two nuclear power plants will be retired early unless lawmakers can pass HB 6. If that happens, thousands of hardworking men and women across Ohio will be out of a job. Each of our state's two nuclear plants provides between seven and eight hundred direct jobs—these are good jobs that require advanced training and provide quality benefits that support Ohio families. Where will these workers find employment if their plants are shuttered? Most cannot afford to simply pack up their entire lives and move to new cities to find new opportunities.

But it's more than just plant workers who will be impacted if these facilities close down ahead of schedule. That's because Ohio's nuclear fleet supports approximately 4,300 jobs when you factor in direct and indirect employment. They also spend \$45 million with local suppliers and vendors and pay tens of millions of dollars in state and local taxes, all of which adds up to stronger communities and a healthier economy. As a matter of fact, it's estimated that closing these two plants would cause our state's gross domestic product to drop by over \$500 million annually.

Furthermore, if these plants were forced to prematurely retire, they would most likely be replaced by more costly, fossil fuel plants that would not only increase greenhouse gas emissions but also not offer nearly as many employment opportunities for the displaced workforce from our nuclear fleet closing. A natural gas-fired power plant, for example, only employs on average 25-50 employees compared to the 700 or so at a nuclear power plant.

There's simply no good reason to force these plants to shut down early. Doing so would threaten Ohio's workforce and undermine our entire economy. I ask that you please take these facts into consideration as you debate HB 6 and do what's right for Ohio workers. Thank you for your time.