

**Testimony of Andrew Ohrablo, Maintenance Electrical Engineer  
Perry Nuclear Generating Station  
Submitted to  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives**

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of House Bill 6. My name is Andrew Ohrablo, and I have worked in the nuclear energy sector for over 20 years. Currently, I am a maintenance electrical engineer at the Perry Nuclear Generating Station.

Today, this Committee has heard from several witnesses who have explained the negative consequences awaiting our state if the legislature fails to preserve Ohio's largest supplier of reliable carbon-free electricity – the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power generating plants. As a Perry employee, this is obviously very personal to me. As a Lake County resident, this is also personal because of the impact that the premature closure of these nuclear plants will have on my colleagues, my neighbors, my friends, and the communities in which we live. Many of the witnesses have gone into great detail to highlight the importance of enacting HB 6, but as a veteran, I feel obligated to raise another issue of concern.

The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) found that the health of the U.S. civil nuclear industry bears directly on the ability of the U.S. to advance a number of crucial objectives with respect to military strength, energy security and avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons.

Additionally, and as noted by the Nuclear Energy Institute, the United States has the largest nuclear-powered Navy in the world. Our Navy is heavily supported by the commercial nuclear energy industry, and allowing nuclear plants to shut down will have an adverse impact on the nuclear energy supply chain. The Navy and the commercial U.S. nuclear industry rely on many of the same providers of nuclear equipment and specialized manufacturing capability.

The Navy develops its own sources that can withstand short-term difficulties. However, a sustained decline in the number of U.S. entities and professionals able to provide these products and services could leave the U.S. Navy with little choice but to rely more heavily on foreign suppliers, or even the need to begin to invest in and develop its own dedicated supply chain resources. Both of which would come at a great cost to the U.S.

As explained by CSIS, a declining nuclear industry could affect the Navy's ability to recruit individuals to serve in its nuclear propulsion program. The program's recruitment materials assure prospective recruits that, "[y]our knowledge of traditional and nuclear power will be an asset in high demand, whether with America's Navy or the civilian sector." That recruiting statement is already becoming more difficult to make, and will be even that

much harder to make if Ohio allows two more nuclear generating power plants to close prematurely and permanently.

I thank you again for the time today to testify before this Committee, and I urge you to move quickly to enact HB 6.