

**Testimony Randy McGuire, Marketing Director for Ohio Laborers District Council
Support for House Bill 6**

I am Randy McGuire, and I serve as the Marketing Director for Laborers' District Council of Ohio. I represent 25,000 laborers in the state of Ohio. I am also a vice president with the Ohio AFL-CIO and I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today in support of House Bill 6

The Laborers' District Council works with our union affiliates and signatory contractors to provide Ohio companies with the best trained, most experienced, and most reliable workforce possible. In 2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that there were 639,000 union members in our state and another 83,000 workers were covered by union contracts without being members themselves. Union membership in Ohio increased in 2018 and has been above the national average since that data was first compiled in 1989.

Obviously, unions and union workers are extremely important to the Ohio economy. Among those workers are the men and women employed in the nuclear power industry and other clean energy power facilities. They contributed significantly to the 24 million manhours our members worked last year. Their efforts helped earn fair benefits and pensions for all union workers.

Closing the nuclear plants would cause the loss of over 4,000 Ohio power industry jobs. But House Bill 6 will do much more than just protect those existing positions. By supporting zero-emission energy production and encouraging other power generators to cut emissions, more new jobs will be created in our state. Employers of all kinds will be attracted to Ohio by the promise of cleaner air, an abundant energy supply, and affordable utility rates held in check by fair competition among power generators.

By creating the Ohio Clean Air Program, House Bill 6 will encourage competition in the Ohio energy market and establish a more level playing field for all power generators. It will reward Ohio power companies for contributing to a cleaner energy supply, enhancing our energy security, protecting the environment, and reducing our need to import energy produced in other states. Making our state more energy self-sufficient will benefit consumers and create jobs for Ohio workers.

Ohio's unions support a clean environment and a stable job market that provides Ohio workers with steady, living-wage union employment opportunities. I believe House Bill 6 will help us achieve both of those goals and I hope you will encourage your colleagues to vote for its approval.

Thank you.