

HB 6 Testimony: Shaun Kozlowski

Thank you to the chairman and members of this committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. My name is Shaun Kozlowski and I am an Operations Unit Supervisor at the Perry Nuclear Plant. I am here today to explain why it is so important for the Ohio General Assembly to pass HB 6 and help protect the hardworking men and women—as well as the families they support—who either work in, or whose jobs rely on, our state's nuclear power sector.

As you know, HB 6 would recognize the immense benefits that nuclear energy offers our state, including clean energy production with fewer emissions as well as the sheer impact on employment and our economy. Both the Davis-Besse plant in Toledo and the Perry plant in Cleveland employ roughly 700-800 workers apiece. These are good-paying jobs that provide quality benefits in a safe workplace. If lawmakers fail to pass HB 6, these workers would be left high and dry.

Altogether, plant operations at these two facilities support more than 4,000 jobs across the state. That's 4,000 Ohio households that would be negatively impacted if HB 6 is not enacted and these jobs are not protected. Needlessly jeopardizing that many highly skilled jobs by closing down these plants early is, quite frankly, unacceptable.

Without these jobs providing steady paychecks that spur economic activity, local economies across the state will suffer as workers will be forced to tighten their belts and stop putting money back into our communities. On top of that, these plants spend more than \$45 million a year with Ohio vendors and suppliers to support their operations—and contribute over \$30 million annually in state and local taxes, much of which goes to local communities to help fund important programs and services we all rely on. All in all, if these plants close, it is estimated that the state's gross domestic product would decrease by over \$500 million annually.

Ohio simply cannot afford these losses, and workers should not be kicked to the curb because lawmakers failed to get their act together and pass this much-needed legislation. For the good of workers across the state, please help protect these jobs and the economic contributions nuclear energy provides Ohio by passing HB 6 without delay.

Thank you for your time.