

HB 6 Testimony: Roy Blalock

Hello, my name is Roy Blalock and I work as a systems engineer at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. I'd like to start by thanking the chairman and members of this committee for providing the platform to weigh in on HB 6, vital legislation that will help preserve hundreds if not thousands of good-paying, skilled jobs. I ask that you consider the huge impact that losing Ohio's nuclear fleet would have on our workforce and do everything you can to support and pass this much-needed bill.

The men and women who work at our state's two nuclear power plants—Davis-Besse and Perry—are highly skilled, trained, hardworking professionals who have dedicated their careers to helping produce clean, reliable, carbon-free power that keeps Ohio homes and businesses running. They work day in and day out to keep the facilities running with the highest degree of safety and reliability. In fact, Ohio's nuclear fleet is among the highest-performing and most reliable in the entire country.

That is due in large part to talented, dedicated workforce that make up these plants. Without these plants, however, these men and women would be left jobless and face an uncertain future. Natural gas plants, which would be most likely to replace our lost power generation if our nuclear facilities are taken offline early, employ roughly 25-50 workers. Nuclear power plants, on the other hand, provide jobs for 700-800 workers. I think it's safe to say which type of plant is more beneficial to the workforce in our state.

While both the Davis-Besse and Perry facilities employ these many workers, they are responsible for supporting upwards of 4,300 jobs in total across the state, either directly or indirectly. Unless you pass this bill, those jobs will be threatened, and with them, the economic impact they have on local communities and economies. It would essentially create a domino effect—as jobs dry up, workers will have fewer opportunities and take-home pay will drop, which in turn means less money being spent at local businesses, restaurants, and so on. In short, entire communities would suffer if we allow our nuclear fleet to go offline entirely.

While this paints a grim picture, it can all be avoided by simply passing HB 6 and protecting the jobs provided by these facilities. I hope you will take my concerns to heart and work together to pass this legislation to help Ohio workers.