

**Testimony of Hal Hawk, President & CEO  
Crown Battery  
Submitted to  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives**

Dear Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Hal Hawk, and I am the President and CEO of Crown Battery, headquartered in Fremont, Ohio. I am here before you to speak in support of House Bill 6 and this Committee's efforts to save Ohio's nuclear power plants and to protect their surrounding communities.

My company, Crown Battery, opened its doors as a small battery repair shop in Fremont, Ohio in 1926. We are proud of the fact that we now provide batteries for heavy-duty equipment for on- and off-road use all over the world. To this day, we have a single location in Fremont where we engineer and manufacture equipment for a global market. Our presence in Fremont helps ensure incredible efficiencies and quality control, in part because of the workforce and economics of our region. Allowing Ohio's nuclear energy plants to retire prematurely threatens both.

The Davis Besse and Perry nuclear plants support over 4,300 jobs in Ohio, and the energy produced by these two plants accounts for roughly 90% of Ohio's carbon-free energy. Furthermore, these nuclear plants are a significant source of reliable energy. According to a study following the 2014 polar vortex, nuclear power was the least impacted energy source. It was found that natural gas accounted for 55% of outages, coal plants were linked to 26% of outages, and nuclear plants – only 3%. If Ohio fails to enact HB 6, thereby causing Ohio's nuclear plants to shutter, our state will be faced with increased utility prices and decreased reliability. Businesses across Ohio, including Crown Battery, cannot succeed in the face of increased electricity prices and an unpredictable energy grid subject to blackouts.

While I of course worry about a company that has been in Ohio for close to 100 years, I am first and foremost a lifelong resident of Sandusky County. I worry about the impact the plant closures will have on the state of Ohio and really the entire region. We can look to our friends in Vermont to see the likely repercussions of closing a nuclear facility prematurely and permanently. When the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant closed in Vernon, Vermont, the local community had to slash its annual budget in half. The high-skilled, highly compensated workers left; jobs vanished and homes went on the market – for far less than they had originally been purchased.

The trickle-down effect can be devastating. Once the plants close, the jobs disappear, the workers leave, and the schools and families soon follow.

I do not want to see Ohio's communities suffer the same fate as Vernon, Vermont. Ohio's nuclear plants drive the economy and anchor our communities. I urge you all to please help save these economic engines of our region and support HB 6.