



**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, and Ranking Member Denson  
Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 6  
Testimony of Rachael Belz  
Project Director, Ohio Consumers Power Alliance**

May 22, 2019

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Rachael Belz, and I am the Project Director for the Ohio Consumers Power Alliance, a project of the Ohio Citizen Action Education Fund dedicated to educating Ohio's energy consumers around opportunities to diversify Ohio's energy portfolio and policy actions that could impact consumer choice and spending. My remarks today will be brief, but my full testimony is attached for your review.

Substitute House Bill 6 takes Ohio's energy future in the wrong direction and flies in the face of what consumers in this state want from their energy spending. While there have been some changes to the bill, the primary components remain the same. Every ratepayer would be charged a monthly fee to subsidize FirstEnergy's failing investment, period. This consumer-funded bailout does nothing to update the technology used at the nuclear power plants, nor would the funds be spent to bring nuclear power into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It maintains the status quo.

The bill does not expand Ohio's renewable energy standards or cost-saving energy efficiency measures, instead it effectively repeals them, tying the hands of new technology companies that are creating jobs and saving consumers money.

At the end of the day, you have a decision to make: Will you take this opportunity to develop a comprehensive, innovative energy plan for Ohio that promotes job growth, saves consumers money, and actually reduces harmful emissions? Or will you pass this bill and use an indefinite stream of ratepayer dollars to prop up a for-profit corporation while turning your back on Ohio's clean energy development? This is our chance to take a step back and get it right. I urge you to look at this bill again and find a way to make it work for all Ohioans. In the meantime, I would ask for your NO vote on Substitute House Bill 6.