

Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Grace Gulczinski and I am a high school student, Ohio resident, and member of Sunrise Movement Dayton, the organization I am testifying on behalf of today.

We oppose HB798 because a delay of HB6 fees does not address the corruption behind HB6 and only pushes this problem into the future. We must repeal HB6, a dark money-funded bill that bails out polluting coal plants and slashes Ohio's goals for renewable energy development. It is corrupt and against the interests of Ohioans.

HB6 helps to keep afloat a dying fossil fuel economy that we must transition away from if this planet is to continue to prosper. It guts Ohio's goals for renewable energy development: The goal was for Ohio's utilities to get 12.5 percent of their power from renewables by 2027. The bill reduces the target to 8.5 percent by 2026, exempts large industrial customers, and kills the standard after 2026, effectively nullifying any incentive for new renewable energy development in the state (Roberts, 2019).

HB6 doesn't represent the interests of the people of Ohio and is only the result of corrupt dealings between First Energy and politicians like the disgraced Larry Householder, one of HB6's most fervent supporters. FirstEnergy's PAC donated more than \$5,000 to Householder's campaign and a total of about \$149,000 to more than a dozen other House candidates, mostly Householder's supporters (Roberts, 2019).

In addition, Ohioans want more clean energy. A June 2017 poll run by Public Opinion Strategies (the nation's largest Republican polling firm) on behalf of the Nature Conservancy found that large majorities, even in coal-intensive southeast Ohio, support greater focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Some 79 percent support the renewable energy mandate; 86 percent support lower setbacks for wind power. Ninety percent would pay more on their electric bill to support renewable energy; 90 percent would prefer lawmakers who support clean energy policies (Roberts, 2019).

It is clear that Ohioans have bipartisan support for a repeal of HB6. HB798 does not solve the problems of HB6-- it only pushes them into the future. Therefore, we urge the committee to refocus its efforts on a repeal of HB6. This is a necessary step to secure the futures of young Ohioans like myself and the other members of Sunrise Dayton. We hope you won't let us down. On behalf of Sunrise Movement Dayton, I thank you for your time and consideration in hearing our testimony today.

-- Grace Gulczinski, Sunrise Movement Dayton
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Roberts, D. (2019, July 27). Ohio just passed the worst energy bill of the 21st century. Retrieved December 02, 2020, from <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/7/27/8910804/ohio-gop-nuclear-coal-plants-renewables-efficiency-hb6>