

## Chairman Hoops and Select Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 798. This select committee has had five months to conduct public hearings on nearly identical bipartisan bills, introduced in September, namely HB 738 and HB 746 which would FULLY repeal HB 6 rather than cherry-pick parts of it as HB 798 and HB 772 do. No select committee vote was permitted on HB 738 or HB 746 despite their broad support and the likelihood that either would have been voted out of committee and probably would have passed the House had a floor vote been taken. If SB 346, a full repeal of HB 6, were passed, HB 6 would be repealed. It has now taken longer to repeal HB 6 than it took to pass it.

It is unconscionable that in December 2020, a few weeks before the end of the 133rd General Assembly, the legislative process with HB 798 is being so incredibly rushed. HB 798 was introduced on 12/1/20; I found out about the bill on 12/2/20 an hour or so before the 2:00 PM deadline to submit opponent, proponent and interested party testimony for a 12/3/20 hearing. This timetable is ridiculous!

While HB 798 changes the decoupling provision of HB 6, it is unclear to me whether the decoupling provision is completely eliminated and no revenues are guaranteed to FirstEnergy. The bill also restores profitability calculations for Ohio Edison, Toledo Edison, and Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company as separate entities rather than an average of the three FirstEnergy subsidiaries, but neither of these provisions are enough.

### HB 798 is insufficient and inadequate primarily because:

1. It merely delays the nuclear plant bailout subsidies for a year and
2. It does not restore the renewable energy and energy efficiency standards.

As columnist Tom Suddes wrote in August, "HB 6 repeal isn't rocket science. In fact it requires just under 30 words: 'Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio: Section I: That Amended Substitute House Bill of the 133rd General Assembly is hereby repealed.'"

HB 6 must be fully and completely repealed. Ohio needs to start fresh and start over to develop a comprehensive forward-thinking energy policy without corruption and with input from all stakeholders.

Connie Kline