

Beverly Reed

Testimony on HB798

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I oppose HB798. Ohioans deserve a FULL repeal of HB6- the corrupt bill that will make all Ohioans pay for something we never asked for - 2 dying coal plants and 2 dying nuclear plants at the expense of clean energy and efficiency standards. HB6 needs to be FULLY repealed and HB798 doesn't cut it. It basically kicks the can down the road. We need to be able to trust our elected officials, and that can't happen unless HB6 is fully repealed. Not only was the bill corrupt from the start, it would increase carbon emissions and gut the much-needed clean energy standards for the state of Ohio. The rest of America and the world is moving into the future and turning towards clean energy. Why is Ohio seemingly stuck in the past? Governor DeWine even supports a full repeal. Now it is up to the legislature to act and be held accountable for passing this awful bill. If First Energy needed the money so bad, why would the legislature be proposing to postpone this bailout for one year? That's what HB798 does. Why did Randazzo quit after his home was raided? Why was this bill pushed through in nearly 90 days? There isn't enough transparency surrounding this entire debacle. We need nothing but a full repeal and for the legislature to introduce strong clean energy and efficiency standards for the present and the future of the state. Why should the taxpayers have to bail out these dirty, outdated plants in the first place? This isn't what many Ohioans want. We need to rethink the way we make decisions around energy. If First Energy can't survive on their own two feet, why should taxpayers have to step in? Why don't we help instead with the inevitable transition off of fossil fuels? There's got to be a better path forward. Keeping HB6 is not the path. A majority of legislators agree that HB6 needs repealed.