

House Select Committee on Energy Policy & Oversight
Chairman Jim Hoops
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 798
Written Testimony of Lauren Koch
December 7, 2020

Dear Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Abrams, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Select Committee on Energy Policy & Oversight,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 798. My name is Lauren Koch, and I am writing as a citizen of Ohio, but also someone who understands well the connections between energy, human health, and fiscal health.

Nationally, HB6 is known as the “worst energy bill of the 21st century¹”. Not only is this shameful for the state of Ohio, the citizens and institutions are literally paying for this awful legislation.

- HB6 costs the average Ohioan \$7.01 per MONTH.²
- HB6 destroyed the renewable energy and energy efficiency programs – taking our state back to the dark ages, rather than embracing the future and creating jobs.
- HB6 is currently the subject of a federal investigation, with clear linkages alleging this was bought and paid for from First Energy.

What else do you need to hear? It’s time to start fresh and repeal this stain on our state. As a mother and a lifelong Ohioan, I urge you to do the right thing – and it is clear that HB798 is not the step in the right direction.

- HB798 has citizens paying for coal bailouts starting in January 2021.
- HB798 has citizens paying for nuclear bailouts in January 2022.
- HB798 still repeals Ohio’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard – something that NO other state is doing at this time, but rather they are increasing their commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Let’s instead fully repeal HB6, and have the longer and harder path taken of figuring out what is best for the state of Ohio, instead of what is best for companies like First Energy.

¹ <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/7/27/8910804/ohio-gop-nuclear-coal-plants-renewables-efficiency-hb6>

² <https://www.dispatch.com/story/opinion/columns/2020/09/01/column-house-bill-6-is-even-bigger-scam-than-ohioans-might-think/42368227/>