

Written Testimony Opposing HB 6 and HB 798

To: House Energy Policy and Oversight Committee, Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Abrams, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Energy Policy and Oversight Committee.

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 6 and HB 798. Our elected officials have had five months to repeal this tainted legislation and give Ohio a real energy policy. They have chosen instead to consider passing the same bill and pretend it addresses the problem. Nothing has changed.

HB798 does nothing to remedy the corruption behind HB6. All the bill does is delay the nuclear bailout by one year. HB6 should be fully repealed. This bill is a wholly insufficient and embarrassing response for addressing the largest public bribery scandal in Ohio's history

Communities lose their voices when laws allow large corporations like the *Growth and Opportunity PAC* to force harmful laws like HB 6 and HB 798 on our communities despite citizen opposition to them. HB 6 and HB 798 permit charging citizens to subsidize Ohio's two nuclear plants **despite citizen opposition**.

HB 798 is not an adequate repeal of HB 6. While the bill delays the nuclear bailout by one year, it keeps the coal plant bailout. And it maintains the gutting of renewable energy standards and energy efficiency programs.

HB798 does nothing to remedy the corruption behind HB6. All the bill does is delay the nuclear bailout by one year. HB6 should be fully repealed. HB 798 is a wholly insufficient and embarrassing response for addressing the largest public bribery scandal in Ohio's history. The arrests of state official Householder and four others on charges related to a \$60 million bribe reflect how corporations like *First Energy PAC* can brazenly write checks to our elected officials to ensure a bailout for the nuclear plants **despite citizen opposition!!**

Representative Hoops, by advancing House Bill 798, you portray it as a delay in the implementation of House Bill 6. With Ohioans clamoring for a full and complete repeal of House Bill 6 before the end of legislative session, House Bill 798 is **not a viable alternative**. It is truly just House Bill 6 all over again. **Same bill, different number**.

Our elected officials have had five months to repeal this tainted legislation and give Ohio a real energy policy. They have chosen instead to consider passing the same bill and pretend it addresses the problem. Nothing has changed. Our leaders are **still** rewarding a company who is at the center of a \$61 million bribery and corruption scandal with OUR money. Every single Ohioan will **still** pay more than \$7/month to bail out failing nuclear and dirty coal plants, whether he/she is a FirstEnergy customer or not. That is not how we should be spending our money right now. Our leaders are **still** just hoping Ohioans will forget about all this if they wait awhile.

Why have Ohio's elected officials forgotten how to lead? It is time we send a clear message that corruption, bribery and manipulation will not be tolerated in our Statehouse. **It is time to fully repeal House Bill 6 and House Bill 798 before the end of this legislative session. Thank you.**

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