

Akshai Singh
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To Chairman Hoops, Ranking Member Leland, and the Ohio House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight,

My name is Akshai Singh, and I am a soccer coach and community organizer from Cleveland Heights, Ohio. I am testifying in opposition to HB 798.

As we continue to uncover the depths of federal racketeering charges unfolding from collusion between FirstEnergy and the architects of HB 6, it is important that we move forward with energy policy that benefits the maximum number of Ohioans.

Ohio must also immediately repeal HB 6, and pass legislation that reinstates and expands the state's energy efficiency and renewable portfolio standard, and provides zero emissions credits to run nuclear plants. Any financial assistance to FirstEnergy must coincide with immediate forfeiture of all internal financial and accounting information to the PUCO, and should be considered purchased equity by the State of Ohio in FirstEnergy Corporation. The PUCO itself must be reappointed, as its leadership has exhibited a legally compromised relationship with FirstEnergy throughout the years HB 6 has been debated.

The Ohio Consumers Counsel has, as verified through the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and PJM Interconnection, provided ample evidence of the savings secured for Ohioans through the state's Energy Efficiency standards, as instituted by SB 221 in 2008. The savings figures register over \$5 billion dollars in the cheapest energy available in the nation, 'negawatts' produced right here in Ohio.

Expansion of the state's EERS programs will provide a balance for residents and users of FirstEnergy, like myself, who will pay to see out the functional lifespan of zero-emissions generation at our nuclear plants, and still reap efficiency savings.

Lastly, we need guarantees for FirstEnergy's workers, who have seen their firm's market capitalization plummet due to corporate fraud and mismanagement. FirstEnergy credit ratings have been downgraded to junk status, and working families should not be punished for the transgressions of millionaires in charge of the company. The State of Ohio should immediately transfer any equity purchases from financing FirstEnergy to workers' retirement funds.

Any legislator who has received funds from FirstEnergy should recuse themselves of any decisions that would provide the company any financially advantageous position relative to seeking private financing. A failure to do so only carries on the culture of legal and illegal collusion with investor-owned utilities, and undermines the people of Ohio and workers of FirstEnergy.