

Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition



Cities

Maumee

Northwood

Oregon

Perrysburg

Rossford

Sylvania

Toledo

Waterville

Villages

Delta

Holland

Ottawa Hills

Walbridge

Townships

Lake

Perrysburg

Counties

Lucas

OPPONENT TESTIMONY – AMENDED HB 798
House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight
Thomas Hays, Attorney
On Behalf of the Northwest Ohio Aggregation Coalition
And its 15 Member Communities

December 15, 2020

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Abrams, Ranking Member Leland and members of the Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight thank you for this opportunity to present testimony.

NOAC serves over 125,000 residential and small business customers in our electric and gas aggregations. We oppose proposed Amended HB 798. The proposed Amendment does not adequately address the issues NOAC raised in its December 9 testimony.

If passed the amended bill will enshrine unwarranted pay-offs to corporations and used to thwart efforts at true reform.

No member of the Select Committee nor any witness defended the Indiana coal plant subsidy. The reason is simple. It makes no sense. Jobs Ohio could never use Ohioans money to subsidize this out of state plant. We urge that HB 798 be amended to immediately end the Indiana coal plant subsidy. That one change would save customers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Energy Harbor is paying shareholders \$800 million or five years of subsidy payment that is collected from rate payers. That money could be retained by Energy Harbor as a reserve to run its nuclear plants. Enriching shareholders is its choice but Energy Harbor alone should bear the risk of that choice. NOAC urges HB 798 be amended to credit customers the full \$800 million going forward.

Better still would be ending all the HB 6 subsidies. This is the HB 772's far better approach. The Ohio Attorney General calls the billions of dollar that customers will pay in subsidies "the quid pro quo" for the \$61 million of corporate funding in the HB 6 RICO/bribery scheme.

House Bill 772 would require the companies to return the loot that customers already paid and stops the PUCO from reinstating the subsidies.

We look forward to working with you and to answering any questions you might have. Again, we thank you for this opportunity to testify.