

Terry Joyce, Business Manager, Laborers Local 310

April 17, 2019

Good afternoon, Chairman Stein, Chairman O'Brien and members of the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Generation, and thank you for having me here today. My name is Terry Joyce, and I am the Business Manager of the Building Laborers Union Local 310, based in Cleveland. In addition to Laborers 310, I am speaking today on behalf of Dorsey Hager of the Columbus Building Trades, Larry Tscherne of IBEW 245, and Mark Douglass of Tri-County Construction and Building Trades Council. We are members of the Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance along with more than 47 other labor unions across the state including roofers, insulators, pipefitters, sheet metal workers, painters, plumbers, teamsters, boilermakers, plasterers, electricians, AFL-CIO members, and many more. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of House Bill 6.

The Building Laborers Local 310 and other unions present here today represent thousands of hardworking Ohioans who help support refueling, maintenance, and other projects at both the Cleveland-area Perry Nuclear Power Plant as well as the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station just outside of Toledo. In addition to my role with the Local 310, I'm also proud to serve as President of the Cleveland Building Trades, which represents more than 15,000 tradespeople working to support the operations at these two plants on a routine, ongoing basis.

Unless House Bill 6 passes, both of these plants would face the grim prospect of being forced to retire and go offline prematurely. As you can imagine, an uncertain future for these plants means an uncertain future for the building trades industry and thousands of workers in Ohio. The average nuclear plant employs 500 more people than the average natural gas plant – these are jobs that we cannot afford to lose.

If these plants are forced to shutter their doors for good, many of our state's highly-trained, specialized workers could be forced into early retirement themselves. Or worse, they may simply move away and take those skills elsewhere, perhaps out of state. As Ohio starts to lose its skilled tradespeople and workforce, it will make it that much harder to attract and retain new businesses and industries moving forward. Opportunities to attract the next generation of skilled trade

workers will only continue to shrink—and with it, the strength of our local economies and the vibrancy of our communities.

I speak for Laborers Local 310 and the other 47 unions that are part of the Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance when I express our wholehearted support for Houes Hill 6 and urge you all to consider the impact that premature closure of Ohio's nuclear power fleet would have on our members, and on jobs and communities across the state.

Ohio's labor unions are proud of our highly trained, skilled construction workers that help complete plant projects on time and on budget. Our members support safe, reliable electricity generation to power our state, and I can attest to the high degree of professionalism and high standards of safety under which both of Ohio's nuclear plants operate.

Roughly every two years, each of the two plants shuts down temporarily to perform routine and preventative maintenance, replace fuel, conduct various safety inspections, and so on. These outages last up to six weeks and involve thousands of additional contract workers, including members of Local 310. Highly skilled boilermakers, ironworkers, laborers, electricians, insulators, pipefitters, bricklayers, and other craftsmen work in shifts to complete the work safely, efficiently, and quickly.

While temporary, these are high-paying jobs that provide a significant boost to local economies. Furthermore, when our members relocate temporarily to work at these plants, they help support a range of local businesses, from local hotels and restaurants to gas stations, laundromats, and more. Many of these communities have come to rely on the economic activity our members generate when they service these plants.

If the Davis-Besse and Perry plants are forced to close down early, it would not only impact these opportunities that help our members put food on the table, but it would also threaten the thousands of jobs the plants support directly or indirectly and entire communities. In fact, one study found that closure of these plants would cost 4,300 jobs and deprive Ohio of \$30 million in state and local taxes that benefit our communities annually.

Ohio cannot afford to lose these plants. Not only would it be detrimental to our members, but it would also undermine local communities and jeopardize our state's entire economy. Please help support union families and Ohio communities by supporting House Bill 6.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you today and I and my colleagues would be happy to answer your questions.

- Terry Joyce, Laborers 310