



**House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation
Chair Dick Stein and Chair Michael O'Brien
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 6
Testimony of Frank Szollosi
Great Lakes Climate Policy Director, National Wildlife Federation**

April 23, 2019

Chairman Stein, Chairman O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation, my name is Frank Szollosi, and I am Great Lakes Climate Policy Director for the National Wildlife Federation. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 6.

The National Wildlife Federation considers it a tremendous victory for science-based public policy that our elected officials in Ohio and proponents of House Bill 6 seek to drive legislation by joining us in recognizing the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions. Action to confront climate change presents the State of Ohio with opportunities to increase our global economic competitiveness, defend Ohio's middle class and lift people out of poverty.

Unfortunately, the provisions of House Bill 6 fall far short of the comprehensive energy and workforce policy that is necessary to achieve those lofty goals, let alone protect clean air, clean water and Ohio's natural resources. House Bill 6 does not accelerate Ohio's path to carbon emissions reductions. The National Wildlife Federation has supported the state's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards since their inception in 2008 and have steadfastly opposed a decade of effort aimed at undermining them, as they have created good jobs, a strong tax base for many of Ohio's small counties, and continue to attract investment into Ohio's communities, especially farming communities who seek to expand opportunities to harvest wind and solar to improve their profitability.

NWF acknowledges and appreciates the critical roles that Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power facilities play to the communities, businesses and workforce that depend upon them, as well as their significant contribution to Ohio's zero emissions electricity supply. I grew up near Oak Harbor and have personally participated in tabletop public safety drills up there. My late grandfather was also born in a Youghiogheny and Ohio Coal Company town in Belmont County in the 1920's. I can assure you that NWF also recognizes and acknowledges the economic, social, ecological and personal disruptions that plague the Ohio River Valley as a result of coal plant and mining closures.

NWF proposes that if families, individuals and businesses across Ohio are asked to pay a new tax to maintain Davis-Besse and Perry, a portion of the revenue is dedicated to training women and men in struggling Ohio counties for jobs, including the fastest growing sectors of employment in the country: solar energy installers and wind technicians. These jobs pay well, offer good benefits, and do not require a college degree. A better bill would not just protect good people who are currently employed, but also provide real opportunities for so many of our fellow Ohioans looking for work. Not concentrating the benefits to just two deserving communities, but expanding the benefits to all of Ohio's deserving communities.

Remarkably, while House Bill 6 concentrates benefits, it increases economic damage across the state by pulling the legs out from under Ohio's existing renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, as well as by failing to correct the job-killing wind energy setback mandate.

Comprehensive energy policies are being passed in the Midwest. In December 2016, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Future Energy Jobs Act. The legislation provided financial support for their nuclear plants, but it was done in the context of a broad-based, state clean energy policy that made the state a leader in energy efficiency programming, in utility-scale renewable energy development, and in providing local communities and low-income populations equal access to the benefits of clean energy.

The National Wildlife Federation would welcome the opportunity to work with members of this Subcommittee and other elected officials on a broad-based, comprehensive energy and workforce policy for the state of Ohio that truly encourages a diverse portfolio, embraces advanced energy technologies and efficiencies and helps lift people out of poverty and lift up communities of color across the state. The development of a meaningful Clean Air Program that actually reduces carbon pollution, improves public health, preserves wildlife and attracts investment would move Ohio into a leadership position in the Midwest and drive economic growth across the entire state.

We strongly encourage you to spend the additional time necessary on this legislation to consider other options that would provide Ohio with an energy future that is good for us all. In its current form, however, the National Wildlife Federation opposes the passage of HB 6. Thank you again for the opportunity to present testimony, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or if you would like additional information.