

Testimony to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Jude Meyers, Superintendent, Gallia County Local Schools

Background Information

Lifetime resident of NW Ohio until February 2014

- Born and Raised in Sandusky Ohio
- Educator in Fremont Parochial Schools, Woodmore Local Schools, Genoa Area Schools, Fostoria City Schools, Old Fort Local Schools, Gallia County Local Schools

Why am I here?

- To advocate for the students, parents, board of education, staff and community of what makes up the Gallia County Local Schools
- I am not an expert on energy, however I am an expert on education and the impact that legislative decisions have on education. (38 Years)

Gallia County Local Schools

- Approximately 2400 students
- Busses drive to Phoenix and back to get students to school (1 Hour/1 way,, reduced from 2 hour/1 way)
- Initiatives at the District Level to Improve Revenue, Enrollment and Education
 - HB Energy Project
 - Pre-School Initiative
 - Duel Bussing
 - Chromebook 1 to 1 initiative
 - Development of an Online Academy
- Medium income less than \$29,000
- Agriculture is important to Gallia County (Tobacco)
- We are a guarantee district. We receive roughly (\$1,000,000) through the guarantee. \$1,000,000 of our approximate \$28,000,000 comes from the guarantee.
- We are on a federally funded foods program due to a high economically disadvantaged population
- We just lost \$1,000,000 in general fund (\$1.5 million total) revenue because our power plant devalued (\$45,000,000)
- We are making massive cuts to address this loss in funding,

- We are not receiving any additional funds or legislation to stabilize the tax base and generate the revenue lost.
- The proposed legislation in HB 6 will provide relief to the two nuclear power plant districts and will keep them whole
- This legislation will accelerate the devaluation of the coal fire plants in Ohio thus continuing to create devastating losses to education in our district.
- What is your plan to help us and districts similar to ours?
- How will I relay this message from you today back to my taxpayers, board members, students, and families, as to why our kids are not as important as those in the two nuclear power districts?