

**Ed Klco, Mayor**

**North Perry Village**

**Ohio House Committee on Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee on Generation**

My name is Ed Klco, I am the Mayor of North Perry Village, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the ongoing discussion of the preservation of nuclear power in our state and House Bill 6. North Perry Village is a community located in the heart of Lake County on the shores of Lake Erie. We embrace a semi-rural tradition while striving toward growth and progress.

The Perry Nuclear Power Plant has provided millions of homes with clean, reliable and affordable electricity for over 30 years. The operator of the plant, FirstEnergy Solutions, is a significant employer in Ohio and the Perry Plant is certainly one of the largest in Lake County. The plant operates around the clock, generating reliable, carbon-free energy while supplying the local economy with hundreds of full-time jobs and thousands of temporary positions during biennial refueling outages. Without the Ohio legislature acting to return these plants to viability, these plants will be decommissioned prematurely and our region will be devastated by the loss of these valuable jobs.

I have maintained a good relationship with the management team of the Perry Plant, and have witnessed their devotion and experience firsthand. The men and women who work at the plant exemplify dedication to safe, secure, reliable and environmentally responsible energy production. The plant has contributed millions in state and local tax revenues that support our schools, public services and emergency response capacity. The company and many of the plant's employees contribute to a number of charities locally. This shows the passion embodied by the plant's operator and employees for our community.

The nuclear industry employs thousands of Ohioans, encouraging employees and vendors to spend in our communities and enhance our local economies. The Brattle Group estimates that closing Ohio's nuclear plants would reduce the state's GDP by over \$500 million annually, in 2017 dollars. Additionally, the closure of Davis-Besse and Perry would increase the typical Ohio residential customer's electric bill by an average of \$35 dollars annually between 2022 and 2029, and with bills rising as much as \$68 by 2029.

In the summer of 2017, the Department of Energy determined that baseload power plants are invaluable to long-term resiliency of the grid. The Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance has seen broad support for the preservation of nuclear from elected officials, nearby schools, labor organizations and businesses. Ohio cannot afford the repercussions of closing its nuclear power plants. Without nuclear energy, Ohio would be much more reliant on imported energy from

outside the state. This would certainly be damaging to the state's economy and ability to power homes in an affordable and efficient manner.

The Perry Plant provides significant benefits to our region, state and the people of North Perry Village. At some point in the future, other forms of renewable energy may provide a better answer. However, other types of fuel are not as efficient and reliable as nuclear energy. At present, nuclear energy offers a type of energy that is best for the environment and provides an opportunity for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear energy is free of fossil fuel emissions, and has a much higher capacity factor than other emissions-free forms of energy production.

According to the American Lung Association, the Cleveland-Akron-Canton region has some of the worst particle pollution in the country. In fact, the EPA announced just two weeks ago that the Cleveland region has attained federal particulate matter standards for the first time since 2015. Continuing the use of nuclear power helps the state of Ohio to have cleaner air quality overall, and air quality will surely worsen should the decommissioning of nuclear plants continue. This proposal will help to bring about a clean environment and a secure economic future for Ohio. We have seen other states begin to implement policy to encourage nuclear energy, and these policies present an excellent framework for Ohio.

On behalf of North Perry Village, I ask again that you take prompt action on H.B. 6 to preserve the benefits to the people of Ohio. This program encourages Ohio's economic prosperity, and sustainable electricity and environmental progress in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this testimony today.