

Dear House Energy Generation Subcommittee chair and members:

I urge you to vote NO on HB 6, which would bail out nuclear facilities at taxpayer expense and at the cost of clean air, healthy climate, and healthy State waters. I am appalled that this corrupt legislation would also defund clean renewable energy and efficiency programs, favored by the majority of Ohioans and necessary for a livable future. The bill is regressive, hurting the poor the most, while also giving industrial users a big break per unit of electricity used. Small businesses will also pay a disproportionate fee.

Although some of you have likely received campaign contributions from First Energy, as my state representative has, you are now, as public elected servants, ethically and legally bound to protect the interests of the people of Ohio. You were not elected to serve private industry or endanger the health and well-being of Ohioans by enabling a dirty, dangerous, obsolete facility, for which you will be morally responsible if you pass this dangerous bill.

Contrary to Orwellian claims to the contrary by the bill's sponsors and promoters, all nuclear facilities release radioactive pollution into our state's air and waters on a regular basis, thanks to corrupt laws, Radioactive contamination occurs throughout the industrial process chain. Uranium mining, milling and refining all produce dangerous wastes and emit radioactive and hazardous materials, including radon gas. The facilities leak tritium. Groundwater, surface water and community drinking water systems have been contaminated. And there is no "away," no safe solution for "disposing" of nuclear waste. High - level radioactive waste (spent nuclear fuel) is accumulating at reactor sites, stored in dangerously over-filled cooling pools and in thin canisters that cannot be monitored or repaired. Heat from Davis-Besse and Perry is warming Lake Erie. This is particularly dangerous in the shallow western basin, where it contributes to toxic algal blooms that threaten human and aquatic health. A vast amount of steam warms the air with a significant greenhouse effect. Fish and other aquatic life are killed by heat and mechanics when water is sucked in for cooling. This is not an industry that any ethical elected official in the 21st century should support.

First Energy is particularly problematic and has been for decades. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the NRC, FERC, U.S. EPA, the federal bankruptcy court's U.S. Trustee, Ohio Consumers' Council, the Environmental Law and Policy Center and consumer and environmental groups filed strong legal objections to FirstEnergy Solutions' restructuring plan. The court denied FirstEnergy a bonus plan that excluded union members. FirstEnergy "competes" by pushing legislation that blocks cheaper renewables development.

Supporting this bailout is not capitalism but anti-American corporate fascism, when the state and dirty industry collude against democracy, justice and law, stacking the deck against small businesses, fair play, democracy, and justice. Say no to this dangerous legislation, no matter what companies and industries paid your way. Act for the good of Ohioans, whom you are obligated by oath and ethical duty to serve.

Do not bail out a corrupt, obsolete, and dangerous private company by increasing our electric bills or by manipulating regulatory or regional transmission rulings. The majority Ohioans want and need clean renewables and efficiency – without expensive and dangerous, artificially propped up nuclear power, for which we will pay with our dollars, our lives, and the hope of a livable future for Ohio's children.

Heather Cantino, Athens April 22, 2019