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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 Matt Kuhns
Lakewood, Ohio resident
WRITTEN ONLY

April 22, 2019

Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation: my name is Matt Kuhns, I am a Lakewood resident and a utility customer. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee as an opponent to Ohio House Bill 6.

Our current renewable energy portfolio standards and energy efficiency rules, which HB 6 would scrap, benefit Ohio in meaningful ways. They reduce electric bills, grow the Ohio economy and create jobs in the state, while protecting public health and the environment.

In addition to constituting yet another counterproductive attack on these rules, HB 6 is currently a deeply sketchy bill, with little evident purpose except socking it to renewable energy development—and utility customers including me—in order to pay off FirstEnergy. Analysis of the bill makes it clear that it has been written very purposefully to deliver a bailout, for two power plants, which would benefit FirstEnergy.

Given FirstEnergy's loud lobbying for this outcome, and its large donations to Ohio Republicans, the fundamental nature of HB 6 as corrupt, crony capitalism is daylight obvious, and scandalous.

Any potential public interest in keeping the power plants in question operating should be addressed directly, and honestly, and include equity in return for public money spent to subsidize them. It should not be addressed through a corrupt quid pro quo.

Please take a stand in defense of Ohio's successful energy efficiency and renewables policy, and in defense of good government—please reject HB 6.

I appreciate your time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, and may be reached at mk@mattkuhns.com or (440) 309-9724.