Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chair McColley and Ranking Member Williams, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today with my colleague, Representative Callender, in support of House Bill 6, the Ohio Clean Air program.

What does House Bill 6 do? It is an economic incentive bill. It encourages investment and energy generation right here at home. When we generate energy here in Ohio, we support Ohio jobs and Ohio communities. With the bill before you today, we are helping provide businesses with stable, predictable costs for electricity, all while encouraging zero carbon power generation right here at home.

Many years ago, the Ohio legislature tried a different approach, with the renewable portfolio standards and energy efficiency mandates my colleague spoke of a few moments ago. Today, it is clear these policies have failed. Yet, these expensive and outdated mandates are still on the books, costing ratepayers $340 million a year. And those costs are going to keep going up. In fact, a recent study out of the University of Chicago found that renewable portfolio standards policies such as the one Ohio has today have dramatically increased costs.

House Bill 6 replaces failed government mandates with a common sense predictable plan that works. As you just heard last week, the PUCO Chairman testified that HB 6 will save ratepayers money.

House Bill 6 will help Ohio maintain a diverse energy portfolio. Currently, 34 percent of Ohio’s electricity is generated by natural gas, 47 percent from coal and 15 percent from nuclear. This also means the job creators of Ohio will not be looking at a variable yet increasing cost as they do now with the electric mandates, but stable, consistent, not to mention reduced cost on their electric bill.

I’d like to make a few closing observations. First, regarding Ohio’s energy portfolio. I mentioned a moment ago that nuclear accounts for 15 percent of our energy generation, but it’s also 90 percent of our carbon-free generation in Ohio.

Second, earlier in our testimony, my colleague mentioned solar. I’d like to expand on that briefly. House Bill 6 includes language we believe will jumpstart utility-scale solar energy production here in Ohio-something we don’t currently have. These projects could generate enough electricity to power nearly 1 million homes. Our goal is to expand our diverse portfolio of energy production and do so here in Ohio, supporting local jobs and our local manufacturing supply chain while at the same time reducing utility bills for our constituents.

I appreciate your attention and interest and will be happy to take questions.