

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony today. I apologize that I could not be there in person, but I feel strongly about the urgent need to pass Substitute House Bill 6. My name is Ed Hanlon and I am an Associate Radiation Protection Technician at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. For obvious reasons, the passage of this bill will have a significant impact on me personally. It will also have a very significant impact on the city of Perry, Lake County, Northeast Ohio, and Ohio in general, both financially and climatically. With all the testimony that occurred in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I'm sure you are all well versed on the numbers associated with the closure of Perry and Davis Besse. In the interest of brevity, I will forgo mentioning them yet again.

I read the remarks that Paul Sotkiewicz recently made in front of this committee and find it odd that he is the only person, to my knowledge, who says both Perry and Davis Besse are profitable. PJM Interconnection (the same PJM Interconnection that Mr. Sotkiewicz used to work for) disagrees with him. PJM released a report on March 14, 2019 titled "State of the Market" which was written by Joseph Bowring, president of Monitoring Analytics. This was an assessment of PJM operations in 2018 and is an annual report that Mr. Bowring does each year as PJM's Independent Market Monitor (IMM). The results of the 2018 report show three of the 18 nuclear plants in PJM's Midwest and Mid-Atlantic markets are losing money. Two of those three plants are Perry and Davis Besse. The third plant is Exelon's Three Mile Island which announced on May 8, 2019 that it will shut down September 30, 2019 and begin the decommissioning process. I think the fact the TMI is closing prematurely gives credence to Mr. Bowring's report and casts a shadow of doubt on Mr. Sotkiewicz's report. Further, if Mr. Bowring's method to calculate the financial state of the market have been done incorrectly as Mr. Sotkiewicz indicates, where were his objections in the past since Mr. Bowring has been creating these reports for PJM for years. Also, I never heard Mr. Sotkiewicz speak up when the closure of TMI was announced. Does that mean he agrees with the report in just that specific instance?

The strongest evidence, in my opinion, that Perry and Davis Besse must be saved from early closure comes from the Union of Concerned Scientists. This is an unlikely source given the UCS's well documented history of resistance to nuclear power. Back in November of 2018, the UCS released a report titled "The Nuclear Power Dilemma: Declining Profits, Plant Closures, and the Threat of Rising Carbon Emissions". They did their own study in regards to the profitability of nuclear reactors in the United States. They determined the following:

- More than one-third of existing plants are unprofitable or scheduled to close.
- Single-reactor plants are more at risk than multiple-reactor plants.
- The Midwest and Mid-Atlantic states have the most plants at risk of early retirement
- Seventeen states have plants that are unprofitable or scheduled to close.

Perry and Davis Besse fall into all of the above mentioned points. The UCS recommended the following. *“New public policies are needed to properly value low-carbon energy and prevent the replacement of nuclear plants with large quantities of natural gas. Failure to put such policies in place will set back state and national efforts to achieve needed emissions reductions. In today’s market, the prices of fossil fuels are artificially low in most regions because they do not reflect the cost to society of harmful carbon emissions.”* I think this statement should be very thought provoking for this committee, especially given the fact the Union of Concerned Scientists’ position in their 2007 Global Warming and Nuclear Power report stated the following. *“prudence dictates that we develop as many options to reduce global warming emissions as possible, and begin by deploying those that achieve the largest reductions most quickly and with the lowest costs and risks. Nuclear power today does not meet these criteria.”*

Lastly, I would like to give you a perspective of how the passage of Substitute House Bill 6 will impact me personally. As I said before, I’m an employee at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. If this bill does not pass, I will be out of a job along with 4299 other people. I unfortunately know this experience all too well as I lost my job at the NASA Glenn Research Center back in 2005 due to budget cuts. I would like to avoid a repeat of this experience. When I lost my job at NASA, I was devastated. I had just lost the only job I ever had that I truly looked forward to going to every day. In an attempt to network for new employment that would keep me in Northeast Ohio, I spoke with the dean of engineering at Lakeland Community College where I had previously obtained an Associate’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. He talked me into going back to school. Being a “non-traditional” college student was nothing new to me since I worked full time and went to school at night while completing my Mechanical Engineering degree. I stayed focused with the belief that all the hard work would pay off in the end. I graduated with a 3.90 GPA and was rewarded with my job at NASA. I knew I had the capability to do it, plus the dean said it would only be five classes or so to complete an Associate’s degree in Nuclear Engineering given my previous education. Well a year and a half and thirteen classes later I graduated with a 3.90 GPA in Nuclear Engineering. Once again I was rewarded with my current job that I have had for the last thirteen years. Believe it or not, I was lucky enough to find another job that I truly look forward to going to every day. It was through a lot of hard work that I got to where I am today and developed another family sustaining career. I don’t want all that hard work to be for nothing which is exactly what will happen if Substitute House Bill 6 does not pass.

I’m a big Star Wars fan, so in closing I’ll leave you with this. Help me committee members. You’re my only hope. Thank you for your time and may the force be with you!