

Testimony of: Larry Tscherne Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local 245

June 12, 2019

To the Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 6, legislation that creates the Ohio Clean Air Program. My name is Larry Tscherne, and I am the Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 245. On behalf of union workers across Ohio, I urge this Committee and all Members of the Senate to support HB 6, legislation that promotes clean energy, protects jobs across the state, and makes electricity more affordable for Ohioans.

IBEW Local 245 represents more than 800 electrical professionals across Northwest Ohio, including 218 maintenance, warehouse, operations, chemistry, and radiation protection professionals who work full-time at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. IBEW Local 1413 represents another approximately 160 security personnel at the plant. There are approximately 517 union members, hundreds of non-represented employees, and thousands of contractors who assist with plant operations and improvement projects, refueling, and maintenance. The plants are a source of thousands of good, high-paying jobs, affordable and reliable electricity, and a substantial contributor to the state's economy. The Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear generating power plants provide reliable electric power and vital tax revenues that fund emergency response services, public schools, and more for Ohio.

Ohio's nuclear plants account for 90 percent of the state's emission-free energy and 14 percent of the state's electricity overall. Other forms of clean power, such as wind and solar, simply cannot replace the amount of clean energy produced by these nuclear power plants. A diverse energy portfolio is essential to integrate intermittent renewable sources into the power supply mix. These energy sources must work in tandem with one another to power Ohio efficiently. Since wind and solar technologies are inherently intermittent, they cannot generate a continuous electricity supply. When wind and solar energy are not available, it is critical to have another source of clean energy that can fill the gap quickly and efficiently. Importantly, nuclear power operates in the face of severe weather or disastrous circumstances that would otherwise leave families and communities without electricity. Just look at the severe cold weather we experienced last winter: our nuclear plants seamlessly kept up with the high demand.

The Ohio Clean Air Program will continue to allow economic benefits to ripple throughout the regional and state economies. Ohio's nuclear plants contribute more than \$500 million to Ohio's GDP each year. Additionally, both Davis-Besse and Perry spend more than \$45 million each year with vendors and suppliers from all corners of the state—from Ashtabula to Worthington, from Toledo to Cincinnati. Ohio, and especially the local communities in which these plants and suppliers are located, cannot afford to lose such a significant economic driver. Let me be clear, if these nuclear plants prematurely close their doors, the Ohio state government will have to make up for the compounding shortfalls in local and municipal budgets for essential services and benefits our communities depend upon.

The Ohio Clean Air Program bill protects and enhances Ohio's economic well-being and the future of clean energy. We should not let go of these valuable assets that can and should operate for many years to come. Thank you again for providing me the opportunity to offer witness testimony on behalf of the hardworking men and women in Ohio, and on behalf of our local communities that rely on Ohio nuclear power. I urge you to follow the lead of your Ohio House colleagues and approve House Bill 6 to preserve our state's nuclear benefits.

Sincerely,

Larry Tscherne Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local 245