Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and Committee

My name is Rebecca Clutter. I reside in Medina County.

Oh the rabbit holes one can travel down when you start asking questions. My hope is that you will contemplate some of my questions as you work toward reaching a decision on which way to vote.

A similar bill in last year’s general assembly did feel like a bailout where huge sums of money were just being handed over with no accountability. Those who supported that bill are against this one, why?

HB 6, in this general assembly, comes in at a much lower price point and attaches strings to that money. It’s not just a hand out. If energy generators want credits, they would have to prove what they are doing is successful and requires that the produced energy is both generated and sold in Ohio. It eliminates the Federal mandates which is costing Ohioans money on their electric bills and stifling economic growth. It comes with an audit clause to promote accountability, allow for local voices to be heard, and gives everyone a reduction on their electric bill.

This seems like a much more responsible bill, so why the push back from the same people who had prior supported last year’s bills? Are there really legislators in this room against creating accountability and giving citizens lowered rates?

One lone Republican argued on the House floor against the audit provision. Why would he be against an audit of a public utilities program? Aren’t periodic audits of programs using tax dollars a good thing? Even the Muskingham Watershed Conservancy is regularly audited. Surely a public utility should be audited, shouldn’t it?

The people who are against this bill are pushing back against local control. Why would they do that? Are these same people in effect saying that the people in their districts do not matter?

Who here has the courage to truthfully explain to your constituents why residential customers in non-cooperative areas pay significantly higher rates? Why is there a difference in rates? Who is benefitting?

Why is it that other energy rich states charge far less per KW/Hr than we get charged here in Ohio? Is it because they keep their generation in their state instead of purchasing it from other states? Is their grid less complex than ours?

Many are aware that the loss of the two nuke plants will result in not being able to get through the winter without buying out of state electricity at a higher rate fee. Who benefits from that? I guess the better question is, who loses in that scenario?

If you shut down the two nuclear facilities, how will natural gas line pressure be managed, and how will that be dealt with this winter when line pressure drops? Is our existing infrastructure able to handle this without a significant rise in electric rates to consumers? Is there enough baseload without the nuclear plants to keep furnaces lit in the winter?

What happens to spin time with the loss of the two nuclear facilities and how would a loss impact how products function that require electricity in our homes?

API has found it more profitable to set up peaker plants for wind rather than work to build out new natural gas fired power plants that could benefit residential electric users. Why would they not want the public to have access to that energy?

If HB 6 doesn’t pass, wouldn’t that set up a situation where consumers would have to pay for their electric three times? Once on the initial cost; Twice on the mandates which are expected to rise; and thirdly by having to pay increased costs to bring electricity in from other states to compensate for the loss from the two nuclear facilities.

Why did PJM fail to factor in the cost to remove condensate from underground storage in the winter?

Why did PJM forget to include the cost to take a nuclear facility back to greenspace? The last decommissioned facility taken back to greenspace cost $280 million dollars. I would think that would be significant to include in a cost report. That was for one facility, here we have two.

And just this past Monday I read that Americans for Prosperity is now threatening legislators with campaign endorsement removals to anyone who supports this bill. That sounds like something that would happen in the Ukraine. Is the shell game they have been playing with Ohio likely to injure the Koch brothers financially if this passes? What do they have over some of you? Is that why Ryan Smith looked like he was going to wet himself during the House floor debates? What in the world is really going on here? Surely none of you are so beholden to your donors that you would risk harming Ohio?

Simply put, this bill eliminates a system that has allowed Ohioans to get screwed-over for years.

I ask you to rise above whatever quagmire some of you have dug yourselves into and pass this bill out of committee for a floor vote. Ohioans deserve to see who has been bought and paid for. I urge passage of HB 6. Thank you for your time.