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Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
Chair Steve Wilson  
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 6  
Testimony of Matt Kuhns  
Lakewood, Ohio resident  
WRITTEN ONLY

June 16, 2019

Chair Wilson, and Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee: 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 eliminates, benefit Ohio in meaningful ways. They reduce electric bills, promote renewable energy—which is creating jobs much faster than most other sectors of the economy—and support clean air and water.

In addition to constituting yet another counterproductive attack on these rules, HB 6 has combined this with a new hindrance to Ohio's struggling wind energy production. Allowing a local township to vote down a wind farm even, after it has approval from the Ohio Power Siting Board and is under construction, amounts to a completely wrong-way-around and impractical policy. Ohio should be encouraging wind energy development by reducing excessive setback rules to the workable standards prevailing in many other states.

I also share concerns raised about provisions which would in effect bail out nuclear power plants at utility customers' expense. Evidence has emerged that this is unnecessary for the plants to cover their cost, and that a campaign operative in fact emphasized purely political motivations in persuading members of the House. In light of this, no such funds should be disbursed before the prospective beneficiaries open their books completely, for inspection.

Please protect Ohio's successful energy efficiency and renewables policy, reject a suspicious bailout program, and promote wind energy development rather than injecting extensive uncertainty into any new project. Thank you.

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](mailto:mk@mattkuhns.com) or (440) 309-9724.