

Good morning Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams, members of the Committee. Thank you for accepting my testimony. My name is Lee Blackburn and I'm here today to testify in opposition to Substitute House Bill 6, the Ohio Clean Air Program.

This bill has undergone a number of revisions since its first hearing in the House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation on April 17, 2019. As Rep. Dick Stein said during the last day of testimony before the House Energy and Natural Resources committee on May 23, 2019, when he made the motion to move HB 6 to the floor of the House: "I'd like to favorably vote House Bill 6, Sub Bill 17, whatever number it is." And it seems each successive revision has been worse than the previous.

What might once have been a poorly disguised attempt to bail out two bankrupt nuclear reactors in need of substantial capital expenditures, has gone from merely bad to downright atrocious. Unfortunately, it is now the Committee's responsibility to do something with it and the best thing to do for the State of Ohio and its citizens is to kill it.

There are numerous problems with HB 6 as it now stands. What initially began as an effort to make the current renewable energy and efficiency standards voluntary has now become the outright elimination of those standards. Standards which have saved Ohio citizens billions of dollars on their electric bills and if left in place will save citizens billions more. By eliminating these standards, the Ohio Legislature will be moving our great state backwards, not forward.

Even Pope Francis believes we need a "radical energy transition" to clean, low carbon power sources which would "generate new jobs, reduce inequality and improve the quality of life for those affected by climate change," according to an article in Saturday's (6/15/19) Columbus Dispatch. Yet if HB 6 passes, the Ohio Legislature is not only doing the opposite, it will be providing subsidies for fossil-fuel burning, carbon producing power plants.

On the subject of fossil-fuel burning, carbon producing power plants, HB 6 initially began as an effort to prevent subsidies to First Energy Solution's Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station in Pennsylvania, since it wasn't in Ohio. HB 6 has now become a bill that would subsidize a fossil-fuel burning, carbon producing power plant in Indiana.

On the issue of wind generation, HB 6 began as an attempt to limit the amount of subsidy that could be provided to wind producers but has now devolved into a bill that will prohibit wind generators from sharing in any subsidies from HB 6. Even on the very issue of subsidies, by providing them, the Committee will be picking winners and losers, which many in the Senate say shouldn't be done.

This bill has gone from bad to worse and deserves to die in committee. Let it die.

Thank you. Questions?