

WILL OHIO TRADE ZERO-EMISSION FREE MARKET WIND POWER FOR A RADIOACTIVE NUKE BAILOUT?

TESTIMONY TO OHIO SENATE

By Harvey Wasserman & Carolyn Harding

In conjunction with solar, battery storage and efficiency, Ohio right now has more than enough zero-emission wind resource to cheaply, cleanly, safely and reliably supply the entire state with electricity while creating thousands of good, permanent jobs and supporting its already in-place manufacturing base.

The amount of public money needed to do this is zero. All that has to happen is for the legislature to delete one sentence from the Ohio Code, and let the free market economy do its job.

Instead, the Legislature is poised to gouge Ohio ratepayers for \$190 million per year in above-market handouts for a bankrupt utility that pays its top seven executives more than \$20 million per year—more than 10% of the bailout—while rolling the dice on two ancient, obsolete, dangerously decrepit uninsured atomic reactors that would have closed long ago if market forces were allowed to work.

Ohio's entire energy market is warped by the infamous set-back clause that has stopped \$4 billion worth of wind development along the North Coast and in Lake Erie. The onshore wind resource is a perfect storm of strong winds, flat land, welcoming farmers, ample transmission and good sites near urban consumers. The offshore resource is boosted by uniquely powerful winds, a shallow lake, non-corrosive fresh water and proximity to urban markets.

The periodicity of wind is now mitigated by solid breakthroughs in battery storage and supplementation with solar and efficiency. The job benefits are enhanced by the fact that Ohio is already one of the nation's major suppliers of wind turbine components. Tragically, because of the wind set-back clause, and over-market rates for nuke power, many of these components are being shipped out of state rather than being deployed here in Ohio.

Despite our uniquely powerful wind resource, Indiana, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania get far more emission-free wind power than we do. Texas, which has many turbines owned by American Electric Power, has so much wind power it's often being distributed free at night, meaning it has become, at times, "too cheap to meter."

The only function of Ohio's set-back clause is to protect nuclear power and obsolete fossil sources. It does nothing to protect human health or the environment. Quite the opposite.

Wind power is attacked for killing birds, but so do nuke cooling towers. No wind turbine ever killed a fish. But nuke reactors kill them by the millions. And their 300-degree Centigrade cores heat the planet while creating massive quantities of radioactive waste.

There are hundreds of thousands deployed worldwide, but no wind turbine threatens to send a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere. There are less than 500 commercial reactors deployed worldwide, but five have exploded and another—Three Mile Island—came very close. It is only a matter of time before the next one goes. Ohioans can only pray it's not the increasingly dangerous Perry or Davis-Besse.

No atomic reactor can get private insurance against a major catastrophe. Wind, solar, batteries and efficiency have no such problem.

The proposed FirstEnergy bailout mocks everything our free market economy is supposed to stand for.

This bailout is the very worst form of corporate socialism. It is utter hypocrisy, especially while a single sentence stands in the way of letting private capital solve our state's energy and employment needs.

To support this bailout means handing the hard-earned millions of working Ohioans to seven utility executives who have bankrupted their company, and now threaten us with nuclear disaster.

It should be clear to everyone in this room—and this state—that if this bailout, along with the setback clause, were put to a fair vote of all Ohioans, both would be obliterated. We hope it does not have to come to that. But if it has to, it will.

Nuclear energy has massive radioactive waste, released into the air and water, and when stored there are deadly results if it melts down, breaks down, and is exposed - Look at Fukushima - it's still not contained.

Solar and Wind energy is safer and cleaner - without the massive waste.

Ohio State lawmakers are pushing ALEC's agenda - Not the Peoples!

Climate catastrophe and ecological devastation is here.

Ohio People Want Sustainable, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency options!

Stop funding the polluters - Nuclear, Oil, Gas, Coal.

Put our TAX Dollars into clean energy education, training, equipment and facilities.

We, the People want a livable Planet to leave to our children and their children's children for more than seven generations to come.

We, the People of Ohio, Will Hold You Accountable if you Choose Polluting Energy over Renewable, Sustainable, Restorative energy.

Vote NO on HB6