

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Chairman Steve Wilson
Opponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 6
Testimony of Olivia Newlon
Opponent, Individual

June 17, 2019

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, my name is Olivia Newlon, I am an opponent, and I am testifying as an individual opponent to House Bill 6, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today as an opponent to Substitute House Bill 6.

As a student in Columbus, Ohio, I am no stranger to bills, and fees, and additional charges. This coming year I will become a first time renter in Columbus, while continuing my education at OSU. This means that I will have an electric bill like everyone else, and even though I will be in AEP territory, I will have to pay for First Energy's mismanagement like everyone else. I already have enough to worry about financially: I have my tuition, I have my rent, and now I will have this increased electric bill. I cannot afford to have this additional fee burden me. I am a hard worker and often work over 20 hours a week to be able to pay these bills, and remain successful in my academic endeavors. If this bill passes, no matter how minor the financial cost may seem to all of you, it will greatly impact me. Try to remember being a student, and struggling financially at this time, and think of how an additional fee would have impacted you, and for what? To bail out a large corporation that would rather put the cost on people like me rather than taking responsibility for their own mistakes. We do not accept when individuals behave this way, we tell them to pull it together, so why are we not doing the same for First Energy? Why are we bailing them out once again when they have proven themselves to be incompetent when it comes to money. I know about responsibility, it is all I deal with as a student and as a worker, and this is not my responsibility, nor should it be my burden. I implore you to oppose this bill, for all the students out there struggling to pay their bills so that they can receive their education, I implore you to oppose this bill for all of us. Do not burden us any further.

I appreciate your time and consideration today, I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.