

## **Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee**

### **Hali Schultz, Perry Chapter President of Women in Nuclear (WIN)**

**June 19, 2019**

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Public Utilities: my name is Hali Schultz and I am here today to ask that you support House Bill 6. This piece of legislation supports Ohio workers and, importantly, women in the nuclear industry.

I am the Perry Chapter President of Women in Nuclear (WIN) and we are a non-profit organization that was created to support and encourage women working in nuclear industries throughout the world. Our vision is aimed at positioning the United States for the future of nuclear energy and technology through the advancement of women. This is a vision that we should all support, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before you today.

Working at the Perry Nuclear Plant has been an amazing experience for many reasons. The highly-skilled, well-paying, technical jobs that Ohio's nuclear plants provide are the types of jobs that we should be fighting to keep in Ohio. If the plants close down, these jobs are gone for good and there is no taking them back. Once a nuclear plant shuts down there is no turning it back on, and many of our jobs will be outsourced to neighboring states that will end up supplying more power to Ohio.

For those of us that will remain in Ohio if the plants close, transitioning jobs to the fossil fuel energy industry is not as easy as it sounds. There are far fewer jobs at a natural gas plant compared to a nuclear plant. In fact, the average nuclear plant employs 500 more people than a similarly sized gas plant. There is no substitute for the types of positions and salaries that you would see at an Ohio nuclear plant and I hope that you keep these figures in mind as you consider this legislation.

Last year alone, Perry Nuclear Plant paid over \$97 million in payroll. If you combine that with Davis-Besse payroll, it comes to \$189 million per year flowing directly into the pockets of

hardworking Ohioans, who then support their local businesses and regional economies. Additionally, Ohio's nuclear plants pay over \$30 million in state and local taxes as well as \$45 million with various vendors and suppliers across the state. All told, Perry and Davis-Besse account for \$510 million of the state's GDP – those are hard dollars and cents that we would lose forever if HB 6 does not pass.

In addition to significant statewide economic contributions, our nuclear plants' continued operation also means cleaner air and a healthier environment. As of today, our nuclear plants make up 90% of all of the clean energy produced in Ohio. Contrary to popular belief, nuclear power is perfectly safe and the water vapor that we see coming from the cooling towers is nothing more than harmless steam. By keeping our nuclear plants online, we are preventing additional carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and we are mitigating the release of additional pollutants including sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

As you can see, our nuclear plants provide many benefits to the state of Ohio, including significant opportunities for women in the energy industry, economic stimulus locally and statewide, and the prevention of the release of harmful toxins into our atmosphere.

Please stand with your constituents and support HB 6 – the alternative would be devastating.