

North American Young Generation in Nuclear  
Brian Kanney, Davis-Besse Power Plant

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the committee, good afternoon and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today on behalf of nuclear power in the great state of Ohio.

My name is Brian Kanney and I am testifying in favor of HB 6 on behalf of a national grassroots organization called North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NAYGN). NAYGN was founded in 1999, so we're just celebrating our 20th birthday this year. We are an organization of pro-nuclear young professionals that believe in the future of nuclear science and technology. NAYGN currently has over 110 chapters strong across the U.S., Canada and Mexico with over 15,000 members, many of those currently in Ohio, including me, and we're still growing every day. Our mission is to develop leaders and energize the future of nuclear. NAYGN provides opportunities for a young generation of nuclear enthusiasts to develop leadership and professional skills, create life-long connections, engage and inform the public, and inspire today's nuclear technology professionals to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

NAYGN is founded on objectives to serve our members in professional development to become leaders in the industry, provide opportunities for public outreach to tout benefits of nuclear science and technology, and form a network of young professionals across the industry.

As an NAYGN member, Ohio resident, father, and Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station employee, I want to tell you why I support nuclear power and House Bill 6.

A recent Harvard poll<sup>1</sup> found that nearly half of young Americans feel climate change is a crisis that demands urgent action. This is certainly true in Ohio, where young people are very concerned about clean air and the livability of the planet we will inherit. That's why we support nuclear power and believe it is so important for the Ohio General Assembly to approve House Bill 6.

House Bill 6 will provide critical support for clean energy in our state. It would encourage all power generators to reduce their emissions and make it possible for Ohio's largest source of carbon-free electricity – nuclear power – to stay in business. Without House Bill 6, we will lose 90 percent of Ohio's zero-carbon power. Nuclear power is a proven solution to clean energy production. The two nuclear plants in Ohio prevent more than 9 million tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere by taking the place of dirtier power generation fuels. Nuclear power is a powerful weapon in our fight against climate change and in ongoing efforts to protect people from the harmful effects of air pollution. Studies have determined that nuclear power has prevented the worldwide deaths of 1.8 million people from pollution-related illnesses. This is immensely important to me as a father.

Wind and solar power are important zero-carbon power sources too, but they simply do not have the ability to equal the output of nuclear plants. For example, a typical U.S. nuclear power facility has a land footprint of about 1 square mile. In comparison, replacing the amount of electricity that plant could produce would require the installation of 3 million solar panels, covering 360 square miles. Obviously, nuclear power is a much more effective way to meet our clean energy needs.

Nuclear power is a positive force for the state economy and job market too, things that also vitally important to the next generation of Ohioans. Davis-Besse and Perry add \$500 million a year to the Ohio economy and directly and indirectly create jobs for more than 4,300 workers. The types of jobs that the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nearly-half-of-young-americans-say-climate-change-is-a-crisis-requiring-urgent-action/>

plants create are good-paying, highly technical jobs that sustain an educated workforce and support middle-class families in Ohio. Allowing these positions to disappear or leave the state would have detrimental impacts for the economy and the labor force in Ohio.

I have heard the case that if the plants shut down, employees can just get jobs at a natural gas plant. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The average natural gas plant employs 500 fewer people than a similarly sized nuclear power plant. In fact, if you look at just one example in Pennsylvania: according to the Wall Street Journal, running the 2,300-megawatt Limerick Nuclear Generating Station requires 800 workers but just two-hour drive north, Lackawanna Energy Center's 1,480-megawatt natural-gas fired plant, only employs 30 people. The difference between 800 jobs and 30 jobs exemplifies what we stand to lose if these plants go away.

This is an important bill for many reasons. It impacts our environment and our jobs. An international coalition of scientists has estimated that closing at-risk U.S. nuclear power facilities, such as Davis-Besse and Perry, would increase carbon emissions by as much as 1.25 billion metric tons by 2035. That could do possibly irreparable damage to our planet by hastening the catastrophic environmental impacts of climate change, which we are already beginning to see.

Please do everything you can to pass House Bill 6 and support nuclear power, largest source of clean energy in Ohio. The children of my kids' generation will remember your actions and thank you for protecting their future.

Thank you.