Chairperson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express opposition to HB6. It has been common knowledge for at least a decade that our planet is undergoing extreme climate changes caused by the burning of fossil fuels. It was known that this would happen by fossil fuel corporations since 1968 although the general public was not informed of it. At any rate, we all know that climate change is causing devastating fires, unpredictable weather, and extreme storms. Ohio farmers are suffering from this year’s unusual amount of rain to the point that crops are not being planted and those that were planted are in danger of rotting in the soggy fields. This Memorial Day Ohio made national news with the 18 tornadoes that hit that day. These and other weather anomalies are becoming the new normal bringing tragedy and pain into our lives. What scientists have been telling us for decades is that we must reduce the greenhouse emissions we put into our atmosphere. Burning coal and natural gas are major sources of these greenhouse gases. Nuclear power requires processes for mining and refining uranium ore and making reactor fuel which all require large amounts of energy that produce greenhouse gases.

Our task for survival is to transition to renewable energy. The knowledge, technology, and public will is there for it. What stands in our way is enormous amounts of money spent on legislators by the fossil fuel industry. Legislators can make regulations that make building a wind farm in Ohio unprofitable. Legislators can make every rate payer in the state pay to keep old crumbling power plants sending more and more greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

It’s not complicated to decide what’s right and what’s wrong on this vote. I urge you to do the right thing and vote NO on HB6