HB 6 Opponent Testimony

Ohio Senate Energy and Utilities Committee

Wednesday, June 19th, 2019

Andrea Chu - Food & Water Watch

Dear Energy & Utilities Committee,

I urge you to oppose House Bill 6. As it stands now, it is a heinous piece of legislation that moves Ohio into the past, rather than the future. While other states like Illinois are embracing renewables, Ohio is being peddled a coal and nuclear bailout bill poised as a clean energy bill. HB 6 is misleadingly being called a “clean air” program, but in fact it does nothing for clean air. Instead of supporting real clean energy, it would make Ohioans pay for the inefficiencies of coal and nuclear plants, which are not clean or renewable in the least.

HB 6 would eliminate Ohio’s clean energy and energy efficiency standards, Ohio’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS). These standards have saved Ohioans millions of dollars on energy, reduced energy waste and carbon emissions, and have provided many green jobs across the state. We should be bolstering these policies, not repealing them. Why is Ohio moving backwards when other states are investing, not divesting, in clean renewable energy?

In addition to gutting Ohio's clean energy and energy efficiency standards, HB 6 would bail out old coal and nuclear plants and shifting the costs to consumers.The crafters of this bill are putting another burden on everyday people of Ohio in favor of energy barons to keep inefficient and polluting plants online. Ohioans deserve a real clean air bill with real commitments to renewable energy, not a bailout bill for dirty fuels.

HB6 is two steps back in the wrong direction. We need a real renewable energy plan, one that prioritizes moving off of fossil fuels, making sure Ohio has good paying green jobs, and clean air and water for all. We need leadership that will bring Ohio into the future, not keep it mired in the past. HB 6 is a handout to corporate interests at the expense of everyday people and our environment, and a bad deal for Ohio.

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