

HB6 Public Hearing Testimony  
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Good Morning. Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams – and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Tyler Fehrman, and I am a life-long conservative Republican, an experienced political consultant, and an environmentalist who deeply cares about the state of the world we live in. I currently serve as the Director of Policy and Government Relations for Clean Fuels Ohio, an organization who has joined in the fight to Repeal HB6.

In 2019, I was in charge of managing the ground game and grassroots efforts for the House Bill 6 Repeal campaign – something that provided me with some of the most terrifying experiences of my life. I am not here to speak about those experiences – as there is an ongoing federal investigation into the individuals responsible for putting me, and my family, in a constant state of worry and fear during that time – but, I would encourage you to spend some time reading the stories and accounts that have been made public.

Today, I am here to speak to you about repealing House Bill 6 and why it matters to Ohioans. This can be done by passing Senate Bill 346, sponsored by Senators Kunze and O'Brien – who I believe should be applauded and thanked for their leadership in this area. Senators, your dedication to transparency and good government makes you among the best in Ohio.

Before we knew about the corruption, scandal, and obscene crimes surrounding HB6, I stood against this bill for two reasons:

- Number 1: Because it was a corporate HANDOUT (bailouts are reserved for companies who need money) – designed to do a favor for political donors. \$1.5 billion dollars of taxpayer money should have never been given to “save” a failing nuclear power company.
- Number 2: I believe it that we should do everything in our power to protect the world we live in and pass on a safe, clean, and healthy environment to our children and theirs. I want the world I leave behind for my seven year old daughter to be one that is safe for her.

Just over a year ago today, on October 21, 2019, we finished the final day of our attempt to gather enough signatures to repeal HB6 – and, one full year later, those of us who deeply care about government accountability, transparency, and decency are still fighting this corrupt legislation championed by vile and calculated political tyrants – who sought **not** to serve the people of Ohio, but themselves – by lining their pockets and obtaining power for personal and political gain.

I am glad that the Ohio Senate has chosen to give this bill a hearing – as the people of Ohio are constantly making their voices heard: Ohioans deserve better than HB6 – and it should be repealed immediately.

To those members still defending House Bill 6 as good legislation:

Senators \_\_\_\_\_ – you have maintained that this legislation is responsible policy, is not a corporate bailout and grossly inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars, and you **know** that Ohioans deserve better. Stop lying to your constituents, stop defending this ridiculous attempt at political power-grabbing. You can redeem yourselves as servants of the constituents who elected you by stopping this abhorrent political charade and working, with us, to REPEAL HB6 IMMEDIATELY. If you choose not to, it is my personal promise that I will do everything in my power to work with anyone willing to help, to identify and support candidates who will.

Consider this your notice.

This legislation and the scandal surrounding it flies in the face of everything all of us claim to stand for. Burdening Ohioans by using their hard-earned money to prop-up a desperately flailing corporation – one that was and is flailing due to no fault of the taxpayers, but their own greed and selfish ambition – is patently wrong.

Removing valuable regulations for energy and the environment that safeguard the air and water of Ohioans – just for the sake of allowing the same failing corporation to meet standards that were already too weak – is patently wrong.

Ohioans are demanding more from their elected officials. HB6 bailed out a failed corporation with the hard-earned tax-dollars of Ohioans – something the GOP, my own party, claims to stand against. It also stripped our state of meaningful environmental regulations and puts the health and safety of countless men, women, and children at risk. This was irresponsible policy when it was proposed, before we knew about it being a part of the “largest corruption scandal in Ohio’s history”.

And now that we know? It is not only irresponsible, horribly written policy – but it is also a disgusting attempt by lobbyists, political operatives, and elected officials to set themselves above the law and get away with crimes that have detrimental effects on the trust of the people of our State.

Members of the Ohio Legislature from both sides of the aisle – Republicans and Democrats – must come together NOW to listen to the overwhelming majority of Ohioans and REPEAL HB6.

A year ago, we put up our clipboards and petitions and the official campaign to repeal ended. If I had the opportunity, I would do it again a thousand times over – even the parts I did not expect that put my life, my family, and career at great risk.

Now, a year later, our fight is not over. I'm not giving up, and I'm asking you – those who make our laws and directly affect the daily lives of Ohioans - to stand alongside me in the battle to restore public trust, hold government accountable, protect our environment – and Repeal House Bill Six.

Thank you.