

Thanks to David Roberts for his July 2019 Vox article on HB6. It well-summarizes the problems of the bill.

Ohio's HB6 forces Ohio taxpayers to support four power plants by subsidizing two nuclear plants and two antiquated coal plants. An equally damaging action of HB6 is the reduction of renewable and energy-efficiency standards, which harm both Ohio's citizens and our economy.

Ohio had one of the oldest renewable portfolio standards in the country that required it to get 12.5% of its generated power from renewables by 2027. HB6 reduced that by 33% to 8.5% by 2026. It also exempts large industrial customers, kills the standard after 2026, and effectively nullifies any incentive for new renewable energy development in Ohio.

The closure of existing nuclear power plants does present a problem. Each shuttered plant takes a gigawatt or two of low-carbon energy off the grid, just when we need low-carbon energy. The workers in those plants, and the communities around them, deserve a transition plan.

New York, Illinois, and New Jersey, all have figured ways to keep their nuclear plants running longer while also boosting renewable energy and efficiency. In each of those states, it was an alliance of nuclear and renewables supporters that pushed solutions forward. That alliance has a future. Repeal HB 6 now and take steps to support and train workers affected by eventual closures.