

Good afternoon. My name is Michele Timmons from Reynoldsburg, OH, and I represent more than 85,000 members of Moms Clean Air Force in Ohio. While you may not remember me ~ I certainly remember you! Just 544 days ago (April 23, 2019) I urged the legislature to vote NO on House Bill 6 and instead to work with stakeholders from across all sectors to develop a comprehensive energy plan for Ohio. State policies that encourage investment in clean energy and energy efficiency are important to reducing harmful emissions that can worsen respiratory illnesses. Eighteen months ago, we asked Ohio's leaders to develop a strong and effective energy plan that works for our businesses, our economy, and our health. Instead, they gave us House Bill 6.

So – Here I am again!

As I've mentioned before, I know bad air. I grew up in Steubenville in the 70s when it was one of America's most polluted cities and was one of the kids who participated in Harvard University's famous 'Six cities' study. I am also the mother of an 18 year old son who has been suffering from asthma since he was 6 months old. During that time, my family spent thousands of hours administering breathing treatments, battling symptoms, going to doctors' appointments and making late night ER runs when his asthma was out of control. During his earliest academic career, John even lost about 10 days of academic instruction– PER YEAR. Like John, more than 200,000 Ohio children struggle with the realities of asthma every day.

Not only was House Bill 6 bad legislation because it grants FirstEnergy Solutions \$1.5 billion in taxpayer subsidies to save two old, failing nuclear power plants and two of the region's dirtiest coal plants, one in Indiana. It also guts our successful renewable energy and efficiency programs. To make matters worse, we also know that \$61 million in bribes were funneled to former Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives Larry Householder and his key allies to ensure that their priority legislation, House Bill 6, was passed. #Racketeering

Now, as I raised three sons, I have lost track of the number of times I have found out that my sons have done something they shouldn't and they were directed to immediately correct their actions. That is why I am shocked that so much time has passed since the news broke that this bill was passed under the shadow of bribes and intimidation tactics, and yet we are no closer to a repeal.

If I were given the chance, my message to Ohio lawmakers would be this: our children and grandchildren are watching. Right now, we are teaching them that bribery and corruption win the day. I am calling on you to set a better example. You have had months to restore our faith and confidence in your leadership, and instead you are showing them what a lack of integrity looks like.

Ohio legislators have a choice to make. Reward corrupt and failed energy sources of the past or create good jobs and protect clean air for our children and grandchildren into the future. We urge you to choose wisely. Please repeal House Bill 6 now.