

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking member Williams and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 346. I am Shayne Thomas, a Republican County Commissioner in Seneca County. As a fellow elected official, the monumental job and accompanying consequences that the citizens of Ohio are asking you to undertake by passing this bill is not lost on me. As a body, the general assembly previously went through these energy discussions with tremendous intensity, fatigue is understandable. This undertaking is no small task, but it is what is required of us at this time. Once HB 6 is repealed, a balanced conversation on energy policy in Ohio can occur. Until then, the cloud that hangs over Ohio will not be lifted. Many of us in Seneca County look forward to participating in that robust discussion of a replacement bill.

I stand with my fellow commissioners in Ottawa County in seeking a solution for Davis Besse if one is needed. As a former banker, I am resolute in the need to have an advanced audit of the financial need to protect our ratepayers from unnecessary fees.

Having personally toured the power station, I was incredibly impressed with the dedication and passion of the employees. Their request remains a simple one "to be credited for their emissions free power generation". They have made the needed redundancy upgrades in the wake of Fukushima and with great satisfaction were able to demonstrate their safety features. As an aside I should also say that I own a lake condo in Port Clinton with Davis Besse in my viewshed and that they are a welcome neighbor. We need carbon free electrical generation, and we need a diversified energy portfolio, but all of this is a discussion for a replacement bill.

The difficult decision before you today is a vote to erase the stain on Ohio's energy policy and start with a fresh white board. All of us that have endeavored on public service must make it clear that tainted legislation cannot stand.

There is no question that the Senate and especially this committee has already done a tremendous amount of work in this space both on the HB6 and SB 346, for that I thank you. Today though, I am here to encourage you to vote favorably on the bill in front of you and to repeal HB6. Thank you for your service to Ohio. Are there any questions?