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Proponent Testimony HB 772
Kevin Schmidt
Executive Director, The Energy Professionals of Ohio
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
December 9, 2020

I write on behalf of the members of the Ohio Cast Metals Association (OCMA). The OCMA is the statewide association of foundries and foundry suppliers in Ohio. Ohio is the largest cast-metals state in the union boasting dozens of foundries employing tens of thousands of Ohioans. Our foundries range from grey iron, to ductile iron, bronze, and nearly any other alloy you might imagine. Cast metal products are a necessary component in modern life and there is not a day that goes by where you won't use at least one.

As you might imagine, melting iron and other alloys is an expensive and energy intensive process. As such, energy is a key input in our overall cost structure, and it is something that foundries across Ohio focus on. We urge your support for House Bill 772 for several reasons:

- HB 772 will save consumers nearly \$300,000,000 in subsidy payments to Energy Harbor, OVEC, and FirstEnergy (via its lopsided decoupling provision included in HB 6),
- It does not reimpose the energy efficiency standards or renewable energy standards and asks those industries to stand on their own, and
- HB 772 will help repair Ohio's currently broken energy policy that picks winners and losers and is an important step forward in repairing Ohio's sense of trust as they watch the ongoing FBI investigation continue to spread.

The OCMA supports open, transparent, and free markets. The energy market is no different. The OCMA is also unaware of any effort by Energy Harbor to prove it needs the subsidy contained in HB 6 and in fact recently won 48% of AEP-Ohio's standard service offer auction. The company appears well suited to stand on its own and compete fairly in Ohio's energy markets.

The members of the OCMA respectfully urge you to support HB 772.

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