

# OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee

### HOUSE BILL 434

#### Advanced Nuclear Technology Helping Energize Mankind (ANTHEM)

**TESTIMONY TYPE:** Proponent

**TESTIMONY DATE:** December 8th, 2021

**PROPONENT NAME:** Jon Paul Morrow

**PROPONENT ORGANIZATION:** eGeneration Foundation

**TESTIMONY:**

Dear Chairman Stephens, Vice-Chair Stewart, ranking member Weinstein, and the rest of the committee,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB434.

In 2013, before the eGeneration Foundation came into existence, the founders of eGeneration Foundation worked with former legislators Terry Boose and the late Andy Thompson to build support for the development of new nuclear technology. As a result, we have taken meticulous measures to educate legislators, at least those that would listen, on why developing new nuclear technologies is a great thing.

It is a big hurdle to overcome the perception and misinformation of anti-American and anti-Prosperty organizations. These misguided organizations peddle the same misinformation that the Russians did during the Cold War in an attempt to inhibit America's Nuclear program. I am glad that our legislators in the Ohio House are not so easily deceived.

By 2016, and with the election of the very pro-nuclear Trump administration and a strong relationship with former Texas Governor and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry - we thought that the Ohio legislators would move quickly to pass legislation to allow for the formation of an authority and consortium. But alas, it was not to come to pass. This was not due to the Ohio House of Representatives.

The problem has never been with the House of Representatives but has always been in the Ohio Senate. And I will encourage any House member that supports this bill to discuss it with their Senate counterparts. It is imperative to remember, and always to remind legislators, that they do not just play the part as a cog in the machine - you shape the future of Ohio. It is a tremendous responsibility, one that many legislators forget.

This bill is greatly paired down, and the formation of a nuclear consortium, like what the state of Virginia created and many foreign countries currently have, has been eliminated. Even the core of this bill is gutted, and instead of having appointments made from three sources - they are made from one source. Nevertheless, while the bill is not as good as it could be, it is still worth passing.

What have been the problems in passing this bill into law?

**OHIO LEGISLATORS HAVE ASKED,** *“Why pass a bill for nuclear development when the Federal Government has made no provisions for working jointly with States on the development of nuclear power?”*

**ANSWER:** “Federal agencies tell us they cannot create rules for the joint development of nuclear technology until 1) a State officially requests them to do so -and- 2) That there is a receiving authority that is empowered to accept and make decisions on joint development.

So, we are left with a chicken and an egg problem. State legislators see no need to create an authority because federal rules don't exist. And, federal regulators see no need to make federal rules because state legislators will not create an entity they can work with.

The Department of Energy has nuclear development agreements with many foreign countries - it is time that Ohio demands one.

While the Ohio House of Representatives has time and again wanted to lead - the Senate has time and again squashed the leadership opportunity. What happened to us? Where are our leaders at?

We are not asking for a handout - we are asking for a hand-up. We believe that independent development allowed by the Federal government through state collaboration will enable more pathways towards discovery and innovation. Some of the largest venture capitalists in the world are helping fund this technology because they can see how it will fundamentally affect the world and the prosperity it will produce.

# **WHY OHIO LEGISLATORS SHOULD SUPPORT NEW NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT**

1. New nuclear technology will be affordable and safe.
2. Such technology will lower energy costs and allow American manufacturers to compete in world markets better.
3. Medical isotopes save lives and hold the potential to cure many types of cancers.
4. These technologies will produce baseload power - not sporadic and intermittent- that needs to be backed by fast ramp inefficient fossil fuel sources.
5. New nuclear technology has ways to consume our high-level nuclear waste and produce electricity.
6. As a cheaper power source, plasma gasification can become a reality, and America and Ohio can do away with landfills and make 100% recycling a reality.
7. We can greatly reduce Green House Gas emissions.
8. The creation of thousands of good-paying jobs
9. States like Tennessee, Idaho, and California are set to reap the rewards of encouraging new nuclear development.
10. National security.

The answer to our most pressing broad-based problems with energy and security will never be accommodated by Wind or Solar. So we can trade an artificial perception of doing good for our environment - with really doing good for our environment and economy.

Please, let us prosper!

Please pass HB434 out of committee!

Thank you for your time and consideration.