

February 4, 2022

Testimony of Timothy Wagner, resident of Columbus Ohio

Dear Chairman Stephens, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Weinstein and members of the committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 434. My reasons are as follows:

My understanding is that this bill funds and indemnifies private enterprise with taxpayer money. I have lived in the United States my whole life and believe in the capitalist, free-market system. HB 434 appears to be in sharp contrast to this economic system. It appears to be a socialist product where the taxpayers take all the risk and private entrepreneurs make all the money. I spent five years of my life in the military participating in the fight to prevent this kind of economic structure from spreading from North Vietnam to South Vietnam. And now there are Ohio legislators proposing that we allow this to grow, not only in our own country, but in our own state. I object!

If this is a good idea, why aren't our capitalists jumping on board and funding it. If the risks are too high for them, why should Ohio taxpayers take the risks that I am sure are very high.

I don't believe Ohio has any business getting involved in this kind of enterprise. It seems more appropriate for the US Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be discussing and considering this. If it is a good idea for our country and needs taxpayer support, then the risks and the costs should be shouldered by the federal government.

Since the main purpose for nuclear processing in our country is to produce nuclear weapons, the US Defense Department should be spearheading these initiatives, not the Ohio legislature.

Ohio has a long history of work with radioactive materials, including at Piketon and Battelle. All of these places have been highly radioactively contaminated, requiring very expensive cleanup. We don't need to add to our state's radioactive waste mess, especially at taxpayers' cleanup expense.

I encourage you to take the long view of the costs, risks, and other downside ramifications of this decision and recognize the future negative impacts on our fine state.