

**TESTIMONY – February 8, 2022**

**In opposition to Ohio House Bill 434: “Advanced Nuclear Technology Helping Energize Mankind” Act**

**Linda Sekura**, lifetime Ohio resident

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To: State of Ohio, House Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
[rep93@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep93@ohiohouse.gov)

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

If passed, House Bill 434 will expose the people of Ohio to health and financial risks, for decades to come. To highlight these concerns, will you please answer the following questions?:

**1) Why is this bill removing the Department of Health’s authorization over decisions involving long-lived radioactive, dangerous materials? What beneficial purpose could this step possibly serve?**

To clarify, why does Ohio House Bill 434 repeal section 3748.03 of the Revised Code, in which the Department of Health is designated as the agency authorized to pursue “Agreement State Status”? “Agreement State Status” exists when the NRC relinquishes to states its regulatory authority to license and regulate byproduct materials (radioisotopes), source materials (uranium and thorium), and more.

**2) Why would the replacement designated authority be an “Ohio Nuclear DEVELOPMENT Authority,” that would consist of nine members (to oversee work performed under the bill) appointed solely by the governor. Is he a nuclear and health expert? How were our governor’s qualifications determined?**

**3) Why would these nine members ONLY represent three stakeholder groups within the nuclear engineering and manufacturing INDUSTRY – not a wide range of affected stakeholders: citizen groups, environmental groups, the health industry, knowledgeable nuclear impact activists and scientists?**

**4) Why would the stated qualifications of the nine members from within the nuclear industry not require intensive education and experience? For example:**

a) **Safety group qualifications:** “At least a bachelor’s degree in nuclear...” or other engineering field - and “one of the following,” including a “professional” (undefined) in “nuclear reactor safety.”

b) **Industry group qualifications:** “...at least five years of experience in one or more of the following, which includes merely “handling and storing nuclear waste.”

c) **Engineering group qualifications:** “...at least a bachelor’s degree” (as in ‘a,’ above), and “be a recognized professional in at least one of the following,” which includes merely “control systems.”

**4) Why would the nominating council for such a weighty nuclear authority be so randomly selected? For example:**

a) The president of the senate, or “the president’s designee” – whomever they select

b) The speaker of the house of representatives, “**or the speaker's designee.**”

c) Five members of **Ohio State University’s** nuclear engineering external advisory board, also selected by our governor. Why was this particular advisory board **hand-picked in advance**, with their exact name inserted into proposed Ohio legislative language?

**The bill also intends to leave open the door** for this type of loose, worrisome legislation **to be replicated for other industries:** “It is the intent of the general assembly in enacting this chapter of the Revised Code to encourage its use as a model for future legislation to further the pursuit of innovative research and development for any industry in this state.”

**One final question: Who were all the parties involved in writing the language of this bill?**

Please answer the questions, above, and use the answers to reconsider sponsoring and passing Ohio House Bill 434. **Ohioans are depending on you to do the right thing. And they will remember for some time to come, as with House Bill 6.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Linda Sekura*

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