



PERRY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

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JAMES McDONALD
FIRE CHIEF

February 17, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 44. My name is James McDonald, I am Chief of the Perry Joint Fire District. I write this testimony in support of Senate Bill 44.

As District Fire Chief, it is my job to make sure that my team is well equipped and well prepared in the event of a fire or any other wide range of emergencies. Another important aspect of my job, is that our fire district is the backup force for any emergencies at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Beginning, the bank declared bankruptcy. Due to deregulation of the Power Plant, we have lost close to \$900,000 in revenue. The Perry Nuclear Power Plant currently makes up 42% of our budget. I will attach several attachments showing you the great amount of tax dollars lost from the Power Plant over the course of years. It is hard to attract commercial businesses in our town due to the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Not only does this affect all of the Perry Community, but also Lake County and the State of Ohio. Because of this, I was a supporter of House Bill 6, which allowed the continued operation of the power plant. This continued the tax revenue source for not only our fire district, but also the township of Perry as a whole.

Recently, I and other Perry community members became informed that these subsidies, a main point of contention throughout the process of House Bill 6, are no longer needed. In addition, without these subsidies, the Perry Nuclear Plant will continue in operation. This is a win-win for not only Perry Township, but also our state as a whole. Initial estimates show, that by removing the nuclear subsidies from the House Bill 6 legislation, Ohio energy ratepayers will save \$1 billion. At a time when our communities are struggling, this money is crucial for families.

Senate Bill 44, introduced by Senators Cirino and Rulli, would codify the removal of these subsidies and would remove the cloud that has hovered over House Bill 6, Columbus, and the community of Perry Township throughout this process. Families and students in our community can be confident knowing that the jobs and the economic value that the Perry Nuclear Plant brings to this state will continue, and Ohio will only continue to prosper. The plants remaining operation is key to allowing our team to continually be prepared in any emergency thrown at us.

I would like to thank Senator, and former Commissioner Cirino, for standing up for the people of Perry, and Commissioner Stahl, for the people of Ottawa County. Thank you to Senators Cirino and Rulli for introducing this bill and putting into law the removal of these subsidies. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I encourage you to support Senate Bill 44.

Sincerely yours in Safety,

Chief James McDonald