

## Gallia County Commissioners

Gallia County Courthouse  
18 Locust Street - Room 1292  
Gallipolis, Ohio 45631  
Ph: 740.446.4612, Ext 1227  
Fax: 740.446.4804  
Email: [gcboe@gallianet.net](mailto:gcboe@gallianet.net)  
Website: [www.gallianet.net](http://www.gallianet.net)



*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

*Harold G. Montgomery, President  
M. Eugene Greene, Vice-President  
Quentin Jay Stapleton, Commissioner*

*Office Staff:  
Melissa Clark, County Administrator  
Anette L. Brown, Clerk to the Board  
Kim Elliott, Asst. Clerk to the Board  
Karen Sprague, Grants Administrator*

June 10, 2021

The Ohio Senate  
Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee  
One Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Committee Members:

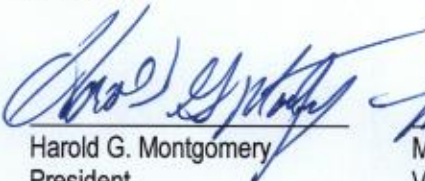
The Gallia County Board of Commissioners writes in strong opposition to Senate Bill 117 (SB 117) and its provisions relating to the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC). OVEC owns and operates the Kyger Creek Power Plant located in Gallia County. This plant has a rich history in our community and was constructed to provide critically needed power for historical national security projects. Today, the plant continues to generate electricity that benefits Ohioans while providing well-paying jobs and a solid tax base for our region.

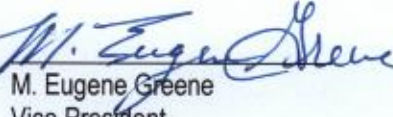
Being a small rural county in Southeast Ohio with a population of 30,000, Gallia County has a vested interest in the outcome of Senate Bill 117. OVEC has a significant economic impact in Gallia County and surrounding communities, providing nearly 250 high-paying positions and an additional 50-200 contracting jobs at the Kyger Creek Plant. The aggregate income supported by the plant is nearly \$32 million and provides a total income effect and economic activity of nearly \$40 million region-wide. As one of the largest tax generators for Gallia County, providing \$2.7M in tax revenue, the loss of tax revenue to the Gallia County Local School District would be crippling to the community.

The OVEC plants were built when electricity was needed for uranium enrichment during the Cold War. At that time, the Ohio utilities did not hesitate to support national security at a critical time in our nation's history. In February 2021 the state of Texas suffered a catastrophic power crisis and electricity generation failure. Ohioans deserve to have affordable, clean, and reliable energy readily available, however, legislative actions causing financial hardship to essential power generating facilities, such as OVEC, will cause risk and instability during increasingly volatile times. OVEC's commitment to environmental stewardship and power plant improvements is evident with nearly \$1 billion invested at the Kyger Creek Power Plant in the last 15 years. By opposing SB 117, OVEC will continue to provide clean, reliable, baseload generation to customers in Ohio.

The continued and successful operation of the Kyger Creek Power Plant is essential to the ongoing economic stability of Gallia County and our surrounding communities. For the reasons listed above, the Gallia County Commissioners strongly urge you to oppose SB 117 and provide Ohioans with ongoing economic and energy security.

Sincerely,

  
Harold G. Montgomery  
President

  
M. Eugene Greene  
Vice President

  
Q. Jay Stapleton  
Commissioner