

HB434 Opponent Testimony
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517 S. Main St, Bowling Green, Ohio
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Dear Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the committee,

The last time I spoke before this Committee was in opposition to the ill fated HB6 whose passage has left a deep stain on the honor and reputation of this body. I hope that this time, the Committee will be more open to the input of ordinary Ohio citizens who come before you sacrificing their own time and resources to try to make clear to you that HB434 is as bad, if not worse than HB6 in terms of policy. This Bill should never leave this Committee. It has deep flaws, both in terms of specific weaknesses in its provisions and in more general terms as a policy for the State of Ohio.

The problems with this bill are many. One such problem is the lack of any kind of democratic representation in the Authority which is supposed to control Ohio's fate in terms of radiation. Section 4164.05 (A) lists the "stakeholders" as nuclear industry representatives from the "Safety, Industry, and Engineering" areas. Where is the Public? Surely the voters of Ohio have a stake in decisions that will affect their health and well being for hundreds of thousands of years? Where are the environmental scientists who have an understanding of the effect radioisotopes have on the environment? Where are the geologists who can evaluate the safety of proposed nuclear waste sites? The assumption here seems to be that people in the nuclear industry with bachelors degrees know better than anyone else what is best for everyone. Yet, even ancient Greeks understood that you can't trust the arguments of people who stand to make a personal profit from

convincing you of something, and that theme, members of the Authority being put into positions where they can personally profit from the decisions made by that Authority, appears again and again in this legislation. The one word description for this kind of situation in government, Senators, is "corruption."

The stink of that corruption permeates Section 4164.05 (B) which lays out the qualifications for members of the Authority. These qualifications are so specific, and so lacking in actual value that they read more like resumes for specific people than carefully thought out qualifications for members who are supposed to tackle what has proven to be one of the most difficult problems facing the human race in its history, what to do with nuclear waste. The "qualifications"; bachelors degrees, "professional backgrounds" in the nuclear industry, etc. are so weak as to be laughable. I wonder if any of the Senators would be willing to make a wager with me? I wager that if we look at the resumes of the people who made proponent testimony on behalf of this bill last week, they would miraculously match these requirements almost exactly. Again, Senators, the word to describe this situation is corruption.

That corruption is actually enshrined into law in section 4164.08. This section allows members of the Authority, who by this law would have to be in the nuclear industry, to keep their jobs and executive positions in that industry even as they serve on the Authority. This is literally the fox regulating the henhouse. I would like to ask the Senators if they consulted the Ohio Ethics Commission on this section of the legislation. I doubt it, because the bill reads as if it were written by the very same people who stand to benefit from it.

There are many references to "isotopes" in this legislation. One of the purposes of the legislation and the Authority is to promote the production of "isotopes." I should not have to be the one to inform the Senate of this, but every single atom in the universe is an "isotope." Some isotopes are stable and relatively benign. Some isotopes are unstable or radioactive and are dangerous. Simply calling for the production of "isotopes" is nonsensical and again suggests this law was

written by people without a basic understanding of the problems associated with nuclear power.

Section 4164.15 gives the undereducated, biased members of the Authority the ability to approve designs for a whole host of technologies related to the nuclear industry. Some of those are listed in subsections A-L. However, that list is unnecessary because section M says they can approve the design for "other areas the Parties agree upon in writing." This is called a blank check. The Authority and the other parties associated with the nuclear and defense industry, simply have to write each other a little love note, and they can do anything they want. Nuclear powered toothbrushes? Sure! There isn't even any requirement that these written notes be available to the public or the legislature.

This point brings us to the broader problems with this bill. One of the most serious is the lack of any kind of oversight or authority to control or curb this Authority's activities. We are supposed to be living in a democracy. Nowhere in this bill does the public have ANY chance to influence or even comment upon the activities of the Authority. Even the Governor has no control, beyond appointing the members provided on a list. This is NOT government of the people, by the people, for the people. This is government by industry insiders for their own benefit.

Now we have to ask, why ARE public funds and the laws of Ohio being bent towards the benefit of the nuclear industry? That industry has left death and destruction in its wake. I wrote this testimony on Sunday, December 4 of this year, after just having watched the world premiere of the documentary, "Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island." This movie detailed the terrible price the downwinders from the Three Mile Island nuclear accident have paid in terms of cancers, deaths, and deformities. Despite the government's claim for decades that there were no health effect from that disaster, the movie showed that people who lived in the plume of radiation from that partial meltdown have some of the highest cancer rates in the nation. The people surrounding the

Hanford nuclear facility have similarly been cursed with death and disease. Coldwater Creek is another example. Right here in Fernald, Ohio NIOSH has documented that workers who worked with radioactive isotopes suffered 50% higher levels of leukemia and blood cancers. Also, just this past month in Piketon, Ohio we have learned that people have elevated death and cancer rates because of the nuclear pollution created there. Radioisotopes were found in childrens' classrooms and children are much more susceptible to radiation damage. All over the world, dealing with nuclear waste and nuclear fuel has left legacies of death and cancer. Nukes are dirty.

Nukes are also dangerous. The nuclear industry used to claim nuclear power plants could NOT melt down, there were simply too many redundant safety features. In fact, in a lie typical of the nuclear industry, they maintained for years that Three Mile Island had not melted down. Then came Chernobyl, and that disaster was dismissed because it was a graphite cooled reactor. Then came Fukushima and the whole world saw the myth of the meltdown-proof reactors explode a thousand feet into the air. Now we are being told so-called "advanced" reactors can NOT melt down. This is also a lie. Sodium cooled reactors have the basic problem that sodium catches fire and explodes if exposed to air. The Fermi 1 nuclear plant which was just a few miles north of my home in Bowling Green, was a sodium cooled breeder reactor that had a partial meltdown and nearly wiped out Detroit, Toledo, and Lake Erie. Many of the "new" reactor designs are retreads of designs that were created in the 1950's and abandoned because of safety concerns. Nukes are dangerous.

Nukes are also expensive. The "advanced" Nuscale sodium reactors just made headlines because, before it has even gotten off the drawing board, costs have doubled. Municipal utilities that signed on because they were promised cheap power are now scrambling because suddenly they've committed to buying nuclear electricity at 5X the cost of wind or solar. Once actual construction starts and the inevitable problems and design revisions occur costs could double or triple again. This is not idle speculation. The only "advanced" reactors under

construction in the US, the Vogtle reactors, are a decade behind schedule and \$16 BILLION over budget. This story is repeated over and over again all over the world. The Olkiluoto reactor in Finland, the Sizewell reactors in the UK, Southern Energy's reactors which were never completed (thank God). ALL over budget and behind schedule.

So, as Senators, you have to ask yourself, why are we supporting an industry in this legislation which delivers dirty, dangerous, and expensive electricity when other technologies like wind and solar are today, right now, all over the world delivering clean, cheap, safe, reliable electricity? Don't you care about the people of Ohio who will have to foot the bill for this bad policy at all?

In conclusion, I'm saddened to inform the Committee that, just over 1 year ago, my wife passed away from endometrial cancer. It was discovered late, and she was given only a few weeks to live. She was offered radiation therapy. We researched it and found that radiation offered only the possibility of a few more weeks of life, and those weeks would be accompanied by incredible pain and suffering. Instead, we fought the cancer with diet and exercise for almost a year until we were able to enroll in a clinical trial. We went to Mass General in Boston where she received treatment with a genetically engineered virus that attacked the cancer cells directly. That therapy gave her several months of steady improvement with no side effects. By that time the FDA had approved an immunotherapy which, again, gave her many more months of life. Genetic engineering and immunotherapy are the treatments of the future for cancer and other diseases. Nuclear medicine has had 75 years to cure cancer. It hasn't and it never will. Committing Ohio to an irreversible policy of nuclear power and nuclear medicine is akin to trying to develop a more efficient whale oil lamp.

The world has moved on from nukes. That's why wind and solar make up most new electrical generation world wide and nukes have faded into the background. Wind, solar, conservation, and geothermal are cleaner, safer, cheaper, and importantly in these times of global warming, faster than nukes. That's where we

should put our focus and resources. NO NUKES!