

Opposition Testimony of HB 434
William Lyons, Columbus, OH

Chairman McColley Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the committee, I am writing in opposition to House Bill 434.

First of all, the state should not be trying to bail out the nuclear industry once again – and mostly for the benefit of one firm, eGeneration, and the associated, Elysium Industries? Wasn't House Bill 6 enough of a wakeup call for this legislature that the people of Ohio don't want to see another corrupt fiasco? Is this another way to help the Davis-Besse and Perry Nuclear Power Stations by letting them dispose of their high-level radioactive waste and attempt to use it as fuel?

This bill would create a secret new Ohio authority with no accountability to the public. Because it will be using JobsOhio for its bidding, it will be exempt from the state sunshine laws and public records requests.

Anything nuclear is very costly and takes years to go anywhere. The taxpayers will be on the hook for this misguided adventure. I wonder what kind of backdoor deals have been done to even propose such a bill.

The so-called "research and development" that this bill would authorize to the Ohio Nuclear Development Authority is best left to Federal agencies and universities. What happens when billions are spent on "research and development" and there is nothing to show for it. Ohio should not be in the business of trying to promote the dying nuclear industry and, especially, helping one firm produce a molten salt reactor which had a lot of problems in the 1960s and no such reactor has been built for more than 50 years. Even Wall Street does not want to invest in this technology.

One of the biggest problems with the nuclear industry is its waste and the dangers associated with it. Under this bill, the public would not be able to sue for damages resulting from spills or accidents. Also, the Ohio taxpayers would have to pay for any radioactive cleanup. Conveniently, there will be no watchdogs looking out for the safety of the public and Nature. This bill does nothing in setting guidelines for public safety.

So, dear Senators, I hope these reasons and as alarming to you as they are to me and that you will not let this bill go any further.

Thank you.

Bill Lyons

