

Tekla Taylor-Lagway  
Columbus, Ohio  
December 5, 2022

Dear Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the committee,

HB434 authorizes the creation of a new vaguely described Ohio entity ONDA, the Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, that is not answerable to the public and may well not be subject to the Ohio Open Records Act or the Sunshine Act. ONDA is inter alia to encourage the development and construction of “new-type advanced nuclear-research reactors,” commercial production of isotopes, and the use of radioactive waste in remanufacture. This bill seems to have been written deliberately to benefit one corporation, eGeneration—5 of the 8 people that have testified for this bill were from that corporation-- it smacks of corruption.

However, nuclear power is the wrong way to go because the urgent need of our time is to halt increasing global temperature--and to do it in the fastest way possible and at the least cost--by moving to renewables. They now cost much less than nuclear power and have a lower carbon footprint. Moreover, renewables are now a good investment, while nuclear has become a bad investment. It makes much more sense for Ohio to encourage investment in renewable energy than nuclear energy. Nuclear power brings the danger of meltdown, and the storage of nuclear waste has not been and perhaps never will be solved.

The bill does not specify how much Ohio will be paying to the Authority, nor how long, and there is no way for the public to find out either who is being paid, nor what is being developed.

HB434 is worded so that the State of Ohio would have no responsibility for accidents and radioactive contamination. Apparently taxpayers would be paying for decommissioning and for radioactive cleanup, insofar as cleanup is even possible.

I urge you to reject this bill.