

December 5, 2022

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

Could you please tell the people of Ohio why Ohio House Bill 434 has even one supporter within our state legislature? What could possibly be in a bill named “Enact Advanced Nuclear Technology Helping Energize Mankind Act” that would benefit Ohioans or help mankind? Guarantees of safety? Honest brokers managing a huge fund with taxpayers money? Cheap energy that provides jobs while not destroying the environment? Let us take these one by one.

Nuclear facilities and safety. These words do not belong in the same phrase. Nuclear operations are by nature extremely dangerous. Facilities are prone to leaks and there are no guaranteed safe ways to transportation or permanently store its radioactive waste. May I remind Ohio’s representatives of Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima. If you would like a list, there are many other examples, including operations here in Ohio. Turn on your news and you’ll hear about the very global fears surrounding the active facility in war torn Ukraine. Are the individuals on this committee really unaware of these risks and all the people who have suffered and died horrible deaths because of them?

Do you know who is aware of these risks? Ohioans, including, I suspect, some of you who may back HB 434 but not live anywhere near a nuclear facility or storage grounds. We can add to this list our nation’s bankers, insurance companies, and powerbrokers on Wall Street who refuse to put their money into nuclear power ventures. This is why the nuclear industry needs to pressure you good folks into releasing money from Ohio’s public coffers.

Honest brokers managing a huge publicly funded research group. If this preposterous bill passes, which it only could in a highly gerrymandered legislature, could I be on the Ohio Nuclear Development Authority board? I would love getting paid handsomely for a job in which there is no accountability for the funds I spend or the work I would do. In the end, how could there be? The nuclear industry is a dying industry.

Oh right, I could not be on the board. There is a provision that keeps the public off. You want our money, not us or our input.

Cheap energy that provides jobs and does not destroy the environment. If Ohio Assembly members were genuinely concerned about these issues—which the people they are supposed to represent are—it would have been supporting solar and wind long ago. These technologies are inexpensive, massive job creator, and come without the massive radioactive dangers, and provide cheap and affordable energy with far less environmental damage than fossil fuels and nuclear operations.

Many years ago in my high school civics classes, I learned that our electeds represent We, the People. When horrendous bills that have no credible public support get even this far, you have to wonder if there is a link between those forces who ended civics classes and who push legislation like HB 434.

Returning to my initial question, I ask again, what could possibly be in a bill named “Enact Advanced Nuclear Technology Helping Energize Mankind Act” that would benefit Ohioans? If you have an answer, please share with your constituents. Ohioans need to know because, while you may be comfortable with the risks this industry poses and has often imposed on people, we are not.

All those who oppose HB 434 are asking is that, as our representatives who are supposed to work for our safety, you listen to the people of Ohio and act accordingly.

Respectfully,

Sandy Bolzenius