

# IN-PERSON TESTIMONY

**COMMITTEE:** Energy and Natural Resources

**BILL:** House Bill 308

**TESTIMONY TYPE:** Proponent

**TESTIFIER:** Jon Morrow MEconSci & MPoliSci

**REPRESENTING:** Committee for a Better Ohio

## **Attention:**

Honorable Members of the Ohio Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Chair Kick, Vice Chair Lear, and Ranking member Rogers.

I stand before you today to advocate for House Bill 308, an initiative aimed at [reclassifying nuclear](#) and natural gas-derived energy and other energy technologies as "green" energy. This bill is not merely a legislative action but a crucial stride towards recognizing the profound environmental benefits of these energy sources. [It aligns with the forward-thinking mindset of rational environmentalists](#) and holds the promise of shaping a more sustainable energy landscape for Ohio.

## **Interest:**

In our quest for a robust and rational energy policy, the age-old approach of picking winners and losers has often left Ohioans at a disadvantage. HB308, however, seeks to reinstate some of the guiding principles of a free market, echoing Adam Smith's [invisible hand](#). It challenges the status quo where specific renewable technologies have been unduly championed, limiting the potential for future technological advancements.

I hope a broader vision of the bill is to someday categorize energy resources based on their carbon generation, enabling all technologies to compete fairly. By acknowledging that higher carbon outputs generally correlate with increased pollution and harmful gases, HB308 aims to recognize cleaner, low-carbon and zero-carbon energy generation. Furthermore, its concept invites discussion and consideration for resiliency and security, recognizing the importance of dependable energy sources during critical times like severe weather events. And yes, this bill will spark further discussions that every energy technology has an environmental consequence, whether it is for its construction,

environmental footprint, harm to wildlife, harvesting its fuel, delivery of its fuel, decommissioning its facility, or its generation of electricity.

**Desire:**

Michael Shellenberger, a respected and rational thinking environmental advocate, underscores the [pivotal role of nuclear energy in combating climate change and pollution](#). His insights echo the sentiment that [nuclear power offers a reliable, zero-carbon energy source capable of significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions](#). This aligns with the aspirations of rational environmentalists striving for sustainable solutions.

Nuclear power's consistent, zero-carbon energy generation, alongside the low-carbon emissions from combined cycle natural gas generation, embodies the vision of forward-thinking environmentalists. Notably, the substantial reduction in our carbon footprint over the past decade owes much to increased natural gas and nuclear utilization.

**Action:**

Moreover, the transformative potential of new nuclear technologies cannot be overlooked. These innovations transcend energy production, offering diverse benefits such as crucial medical isotopes essential for healthcare and isotopes vital for industrial, agricultural, military, and space exploration applications.

The utilization of high-level nuclear waste as fuel through these advancements could revolutionize waste management via plasma gasification, reducing reliance on landfills and promoting a cleaner, more sustainable future. This could lead to using Ohio's coal ash and subgrade coal to produce ultra clean synthetic gasoline and diesel fuel and the components needed to make aluminum and high strength light weight steels.

In conclusion, House Bill 308 signifies a crucial step in recognizing and harnessing the environmental contributions of nuclear and natural gas-derived energy. I implore your support for this legislation, echoing the sentiments of rational energy and environmental experts, to pave the way for a more sustainable energy landscape for Ohio's future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB308.