

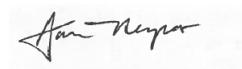
Written Testimony of Jan Nesor, PhD
HB308 -Including energy generated by nuclear reaction as green energy
State of Ohio
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
December 12, 2023

Chairperson, Kick, Vice-chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee

My name is Jan Nesor, and I am a professor of Education Policy at the Ohio State University. I do not represent Ohio State, but rather am submitting testimony as a private citizen in opposition to HB308.

There are serious policy debates to be had about the role of nuclear energy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This bill is not a contribution to those debate. It is one of string of legislative efforts (HB6, HB434, etc.) across recent sessions meant to prop up private energy corporations. The goal seems to be to re-brand or “greenwash” an unpopular industry to make it easier for the legislature to allocate money for it. The energy corporations need that money because the high costs of nuclear power generation¹ mean that most plants cost more to run than they earn.² The industry as a whole isn’t viable without heavy government subsidies – that is, public money to be turned into private profit. The contribution of nuclear energy to reducing GHG emissions is at best ambiguous given the emissions associated with plant construction.³ It is safe only if you live far away from Uranium mining operations. Plants take a decade or more to construct,⁴ making them problematic for addressing the need for near-term reductions in greenhouse gasses. The current enthusiasm for small modular nuclear reactors is unwarranted.⁵ Finally, if the legislature wants to spend money on energy there exist viable options – renewable forms of energy – that are cheaper and “greener”.⁶ Take the money you want to give to nuclear energy, use it to fund retraining for workers in the industry, and if there’s any left put it into renewable energy sources. Reject HB308.

Sincerely,



Jan Nesor

¹ Barron, Robert W., and Mary C. Hill. 2019. “A Wedge or a Weight? Critically Examining Nuclear Power’s Viability as a Low Carbon Energy Source from an Intergenerational Perspective.” *Energy Research & Social Science* 50 (April): 7–17. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ERSS.2018.10.012>.

² <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-06-14/half-of-america-s-nuclear-power-plants-seen-as-money-losers>

³ <https://theecologist.org/2015/feb/05/false-solution-nuclear-power-not-low-carbon>

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-energy-nuclearpower-idUSKBN1W909J>

⁵ <https://cleantechnica.com/2023/11/30/what-drives-this-madness-on-small-modular-nuclear-reactors/>

⁶ Sovacool, B.K., Schmid, P., Stirling, A. *et al.* Differences in carbon emissions reduction between countries pursuing renewable electricity versus nuclear power. *Nat Energy* 5, 928–935 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-020-00696-3>