

TO: The Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
 FROM: Patricia Marida, Coordinator, [The Ohio Nuclear Free Network](#).
 RE: Opposition Testimony, Ohio HB 308

Chair Kick, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Patricia Marida. I live in Columbus and I am a Coordinator with the Ohio Nuclear Free Network.

There is nothing “green” about nuclear power. Despite the Orwellian-seeming agreement among nuclear promoters and the media that nuclear power somehow produces no carbon, or less carbon, and even unbelievably, no emissions - that is the opposite of reality. True, the nuclear chain reaction produces no carbon. However, electricity is but a fleeting byproduct of nuclear power. Its real product is forever-deadly radioactive waste. **THIS IS NOT GREEN.**

Nuclear promoters conveniently forget that **it takes a lot of energy to produce nuclear fuel.** Nuclear fuel comes from uranium mining and milling, done around the world mostly on the lands of indigenous peoples. Energy is needed for uranium enrichment and the many processes needed for fuel fabrication, transportation of all the radioactive materials and parts, and building expensive reactors. All these processes disrupt the environment and spread radioactivity. **Never calculated is the energy it will take to isolate radioactive waste for millennia** - if civilization continues to be capable of doing that. Waste from commercial reactors all sits at the sites of generation. There it will stay, because it will be impossible to move this inadequately stored and dangerously fragile waste.

New nuclear reactors, dubbed as “small”, “modular”, or “advanced”, don’t exist now, and they won’t exist for a decade or more, if ever. Factories that would make modular reactors don’t exist. Small Nuclear Reactors, or SNRs, pose the same problems and risks as large reactors. Energy from SNRs will be more expensive than that from large reactors due to simple advantages of scale. [Operating reactors are already as much as 10 times more expensive](#) as wind and solar. Nuclear costs are going up, while renewables are going down.

Wall Street won’t fund SNRs. Taxpayers will foot the bill, while corporations will take any profits. This is the public-private partnership referenced by proponents last week.

Last month NuScale cancelled its bid to build the first SNRs, due to accelerating costs, investors backing out, design problems, and other woes. A lawsuit has been filed accusing NuScale of securities fraud. Public money invested and lost is around \$1 billion. Also last month, the [U.S. military revoked a contract](#) for a micro nuclear plant in Alaska.

Only 3 people testified in person when proponent testimony was taken last week. Two of them are affiliated with a small group in Cleveland calling itself eGeneration and in the past, Energy From Thorium. These are the same folks behind previous bills attempting to create an Ohio Nuclear Development Authority – HB 434 in the 134th General Assembly, HB 104 in the 133rd, HB 771 in the 132nd, and a resolution to that effect in the 131st. None of these bills passed. Unfortunately, HB 434 was put into the Ohio Budget, along with other bills that did not pass. The budget bill, passed last June, was over 9,000 pages – impossible to know as it underwent constant change. \$270,000 was allocated for the new Nuclear Development Authority. It will be impossible for the public to know how that money is spent.

The third person that testified in favor of 308 last week was from Centrus Energy. Centrus is attempting to enrich uranium at the Portsmouth Nuclear Site at Piketon in Southern Ohio. This new enrichment process is entirely dependent on government largesse – that’s you and me. Centrus is the entity that emerged as a **limited liability corporation** after the bankruptcy of its former self, USEC, Inc. USEC had been attempting to glean a \$2 billion loan guarantee from the Dept. of Energy. When that failed, they declared bankruptcy.

We stand behind our brothers and sisters in unions who are looking for jobs in this challenging economy. They have fought hard for generations for decent wages, against ruthless corporations and against the US government as it backed corporate interests. Environmentalists want truly green, clean, safe jobs. Like in the fast-emerging – if not in Ohio – wind and solar fields. Not dangerous and radioactive jobs. \$1.2 billion has been paid out in federal Workers Compensation for illnesses and injuries to uranium enrichment workers at the Portsmouth Nuclear Site in Piketon.

I am a pharmacist by profession. I can tell you that radioactivity is incompatible with living cells, living creatures, and life itself. Radioactivity alters, destroys, and like an ominous Midas touch, everything it touches becomes radioactive - such as the reactor itself and the casks that hold the waste, and those who go near it.

No guards are needed for wind turbines and solar panels. With growing climate and political instability, nuclear power is becoming even more dangerous.

HB 308 will enable the manipulation of public funds into private, corporate hands. Opponents of 308 don't have that vested interest in it. If Ohio legislators don't have a vested interest in this bill, we say, "Don't vote for it."