

Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee Tuesday, December 3, 2024 10:00 am ET

Proponent Testimony on House Bill 308

Colin Fitzsimmons
Director of Government Affairs
Vistra Corp.

Chairman Reineke, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 308, which would include energy generated by nuclear reaction as green energy in the Ohio Revised Code.

My name is Colin Fitzsimmons, and I am the Director of Government Affairs for Vistra Corp., covering the mid-Atlantic region including Ohio.

Vistra is a leading Fortune 500 integrated retail electricity and power generation company that provides essential power resources to customers, businesses, and communities from California to Maine.

Vistra is the largest competitive power generator in the U.S., with a capacity of approximately 41,000 megawatts, or enough to power 20 million homes, operating in all of the major competitive wholesale markets in the country. Vistra is also Ohio's largest power generator, operating seven generation plants—including coal, natural gas, and now, nuclear. We also have three regional offices in Ohio, specifically in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Akron. In total, the company employs over 1,500 Ohioans and remains committed to powering Ohio's businesses and homes and growing our footprint in the Buckeye state.

Vistra is also one of the largest competitive electricity suppliers in the country and takes an innovative, customer-centric approach to retail, offering solutions to meet customers' needs, including a portfolio of more than 50 renewable energy plans. Through its family of retail brands, Vistra serves approximately 5 million residential, commercial, and industrial retail customers across the U.S.

The company continues to grow its zero-carbon resources, operating the second-largest fleet of competitive nuclear power plants in the country. In March 2024, Vistra completed the acquisition of Energy Harbor, growing our leading integrated zero-carbon generation and retail electricity business with the addition of approximately 4,000 megawatts of 24/7 nuclear generation and approximately 1 million additional retail customers. Our Ohio nuclear plants, Davis-Besse in Ottawa County and Perry in Lake County, have a net capacity of 2,176 MW, or enough to serve over 2 million homes.

Nuclear power will continue to play a key role in the future of U.S. power generation, and Ohio is uniquely positioned to lead in nuclear generation. In a time when power demand is increasing across the country, region, and state, Vistra believes nuclear power, given its carbon-free baseload attributes, is essential to maintaining reliability, affordability, and sustainability for customers.

We applaud the bill sponsors for introducing this legislation and recognizing nuclear as a clean energy resource. Last year, Idaho, Tennessee, and North Carolina passed similar measures, while Michigan and Minnesota passed standards that included nuclear as a clean resource. Vistra looks forward to continuing to efficiently and effectively operate our Ohio nuclear plants, and nuclear fleet, for years to come and are encouraged by Ohio's support for the industry.

Vistra appreciates the committee's consideration and supports the favorable passage of HB 308. Please reach out to me or a member of the Vistra government affairs team with any questions.

Sincerely,

Colin Fitzsimmons

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