

7 December 2024

Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Commission  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

I am writing in opposition to Ohio House Bill 308 . This bill would designate nuclear generated electricity as “green power.” My op position to the bill rests on the following arguments.

First, there is nothing green about nuclear power. Although the nuclear power generation process per se does not release greenhouse gases, there is much environmental harm connected to nuclear power. Uranium must be mined, which destroys natural areas and creates harmful uranium-laced dust that affects the environment surrounding mines. Also, roads must be constructed to mines, often through ecologically fragile ecosystems, again contributing to environmental degradation. Uranium ore processing creates waste and must be carefully monitored to make sure that ore is not diverted to make weapons grade fuel. Finally, spent power plant fuel is highly radioactive and creates storage problems for hundreds of years.

Second, the small, modular reactors which are proposed for use in Ohio create the same fuel processing and waste disposal problems as larger reactors. They are also much more costly to build than renewable energy facilities such as wind turbines and solar panel arrays. Simply put, nuclear power is not cost effective compared to renewable energy.

Third, there is no need for nuclear power. We can meet our energy needs with much less pollution and waste through the use of renewable energy. However, fossil fuel and nuclear proponents have effectively lobbied state and local officials to erect barriers to the development of renewable energy. Twenty four counties in Ohio now ban the development of solar arrays, and wind turbine setback requirements make the development of wind farms difficult to the point that Ohio is now far behind all of its surrounding states in the availability of renewable energy. This will hinder our ability to attract new industry and damage Ohio’s economic health well into the future.

Ohio’s public officials must undertake to re-establish the renewable energy standards gutted by the discredited and fraudulently enacted HB 6 and focus on renewable energy development. Disingenuously labeling nuclear power as “green energy” is not going to take us to where we need to be with respect to energy in Ohio. Please vote against HB 308.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Melampy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Melampy" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Melampy  
143 Westbridge  
Berea, Ohio 44017