

12-10-2024

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

My name is Patricia Marida and I am a coordinator with the Ohio Nuclear Free Network.

The only thing green about nuclear power is money that nuclear promoters can make reaching into the public purse.

Wall Street won't put a dime into nuclear power. Why? Because Wall Street has a habit of making profits.

- Nuclear power is now, and will continue to be, 3 to 5 times more expensive than wind and solar.
- All nuclear power, from here on, will be almost 100% subsidized by the public.

Nuclear power is not renewable or sustainable no matter what color you paint it. The [EPA definition of renewable](#) is that once the infrastructure is built, the fuel is free. EPA lists nuclear as conventional fuel.

Uranium, the fuel for nuclear power, is left out of the picture in claims that nuclear power is low - even NO - carbon. No carbon in uranium mining? What about uranium milling, enrichment, nuclear fuel fabrication, running and maintaining the plants? No environmental destruction in all of this? No radioactive escape? How about the carbon cost of attempting to keep increasing amounts of radioactive waste isolated from the biosphere for the next million years?

Only two proponents spoke in favor of this bill. Both had vested interests. One is a member of the newly created Ohio Nuclear Development Authority. How did this new Authority come about? Rep. Stein, a sponsor of HB 308, also sponsored 3 previous bills in the last 8 years, all attempting to start this Authority. All failed. The last bill was added, in its entirety, to the 2023 budget bill.

So now, Ohio has a [Nuclear Development Authority with a budget of \\$750,000](#) - a nuclear propaganda machine with no results required. Two other people on the new Authority board have a vested interest in the [Portsmouth Nuclear Site at Piketon, Ohio](#). One is an engineer who works for a contractor there. The other is a likely billionaire whose companies serve this 4,000-acre nuclear weapons complex in Southern Ohio.

The intimate connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons is palpable at Piketon. Uranium was enriched there for weapons in what were among the largest buildings in the world. Now more enrichment, plus converting Depleted Uranium for use in DU weapons is also happening there. Two new small reactors are proposed to power activities at the site, not to serve the public.

A billionaire can afford his own nuclear promotion and does not need to rely on public subsidies.

The second proponent who testified last week had been a CEO of Nuclear Fuel Services, a company with a [long history of violations and fines](#). The Nolichucky River outside its plant in Erwin, TN, has been contaminated with radioactivity.

HB 308 also reaffirms Ohio's greening of natural gas. That was done by [adding an amendment to a chicken bill in 2023](#). That same amendment also authorized fracking under our state parks. The Washington Post wrote: [How dark money groups led Ohio to redefine gas as "green energy"](#).

The scrambling of definitions is also an attempt to confuse the public as to which energy sources are preferable. "All of the above" is not an energy strategy. It just goes with the flow. Perhaps Ohio should go along with the flow, because in 2023, solar and wind investment outstripped oil, gas, and nuclear combined.

On the next page is the Ohio Nuclear Free Network's information sheet on HB 308. Thank you.

Pat Marida, Columbus, OH



The Ohio Nuclear Free Network
316 North Michigan Street, Suite 520
Toledo, OH 43604 onfn.org

Ohio HB 308 Alchemy Would Turn Nuclear Waste Green

Watch for Ohio Revoking Law of Gravity

Introduced by Sponsors Dick Stein, (R-Norwalk) and Sean Brennan (D-Parma) and cosponsored by 24 Republicans and 7 Democrats, Ohio House Bill 308 would “*Include energy generated by nuclear reaction as green energy*”. This language could divert funding designated for truly green renewable energy such as wind and solar to expensive, outdated, and dangerous nuclear power. Or more likely, nuclear power speculation.

Here's Why:

1. **There is nothing “green” about nuclear power.** Nuclear promoters conveniently forget to add uranium mining, milling, & enrichment; fuel fabrication; building of reactors; transportation of materials; and radioactive waste when talking about costs, energy used, and carbon generated.
2. **No \$\$\$olution to the problem of nuclear waste**, despite what the Ohio Legislature may think or say. Not the first handful of commercial nuclear waste has been permanently stored. Radioactivity lasts forever. [*The UK Has £10 Billion Per Nuclear Reactor Decommissioning Bottomless Pit.*](#)
3. **Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs) pose the same problems and risks** as large reactors.
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has dropped the word “nuclear” from all its sites and as much as possible from its language. They refer to new nuclear as merely SMRs.
4. **Energy from SMNRs will be more expensive** than that from large reactors - due to simple advantages of scale. [*Operating reactors are already 3 to 10 times more expensive*](#) than wind, solar, and other renewable energy. Nuclear costs are going up, while renewables are going down.
5. **Cancelled! NuScale:** On Nov. 8, 2023, NuScale cancelled its bid to build the first SMNRs 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.
On Nov. 18, 2023, the [*U.S. military revoked a contract*](#) for a small nuclear plant in Alaska.
6. **Wall Street won't fund SMNRs.** Taxpayers will foot the bill, while corporations reap profits.
7. **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.
8. **Factories that would make modular reactors don't exist.**
9. **The push for nuclear power is not just about energy.** Nuclear power companies and promoters argue that SMNRs are necessary to retain and build the skills needed for nuclear weapons programs.
10. **Energy efficiency, wind and solar are cheap, quick, safe, popular, and proven.** Renewables now generate much more power than nuclear reactors. Our energy future is renewable, not radioactive.
11. **No guards are needed for wind turbines and solar panels.** With growing climate and political instability, nuclear power is becoming even more dangerous.
12. **HB 308 will enable the manipulation of public funds into private, greedy, corporate hands.**

HAS THE OHIO LEGISLATURE FORGOTTEN HB 6, THE FIRSTENERGY SCAM THAT SENT THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TO JAIL