

Written Testimony: Kat Finneran
December 8, 2024

House Bill 308: Include energy generated by nuclear reaction as green energy.
OHIO SENATE: ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Dear Chairman Reineke and members of this Committee:

I write to you in broad opposition to Ohio House Bill 308 and critically so against its move to include nuclear and natural gas as “green energy.”

I am a PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography at The Ohio State University. I study the discursive-material co-production of energy regimes and how they maim and disable people and ecosystems across the Ohio River Valley, most specifically in this state – the place I have called home for 32 years. To put it more simply, I study how corporate and state powers work together to manipulate language at both the casual and policy level in order to maintain investments in toxic and expensive fossil fuel infrastructures – infrastructure that has always been, and always will be paid for in blood and dimensioned lung capacity as well as hundreds of other point-source health impacts.

This is the first time I have ever submitted written testimony on behalf of any sort of Senate or House bill, let alone to this committee. Yet, I feel intensely compelled to confront the audacity of this attempt to redefine the terms of debate within Ohio’s energy landscape over what I can only assume is for personal political and economic gain – a practice that Ohio lawmakers have proven to be particularly adept at. Because this outright obfuscation of green energy, which is itself terminology constructed to dilute the specific qualities of renewable energy, certainly can not be done with the full faith and health in mind of the

people of Ohio. The same people mind you, that will be forced to not only work, breathe and die alongside the infrastructural outcomes of this rhetoric, they will also be forced to pay for it.

Members of the committee, I know that *you* know that nuclear energy, and natural gas energy are neither 'green' nor renewable. We both know that 'natural' gas is every bit the hydrocarbon that petroleum crude oil is – both substances made fundamentally up of various combinations of carbon and hydrogen. I am sure we also both are cognizant of the risk of catastrophic nuclear incidents, such as the meltdowns at Chernobyl and Fukushima or the partial meltdown of Three Mile Island just 350 miles east of us in Pennsylvania. I am also sure that you have been briefed that in a rapidly warming world, the risk of nuclear meltdown is much higher amidst the escalating severity of weather events. Of which, I am also sure that you know that Ohio has experienced a particularly high surge of tornados just this year, beating our own state's historical record.

I know that you know all this. I write this testimony to simply emphasize the fact that you aren't fooling anyone – not even yourselves. I write this testimony because I ardently refuse to be gaslit by this propagandized manipulation of a word, the literal color green itself. This word and color has long signified life, biodiversity and collaborative, reciprocal human-nature relationships. In summation, over the literal dead and poisoned bodies of Ohio's inhabitants will "Green" ever actually belong to the oil and gas industry.

Kat Finneran