

December 8, 2024

Testimony of Timothy Wagner, resident of Columbus Ohio

Dear Chair Reineke, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Smith, and other Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 308 – a proposal to classify energy generated by nuclear reaction as green energy.

The bill overlooks four major factors in the production of energy from nuclear reaction – the enormous costs of nuclear energy production, the carbon producing aspects of nuclear energy production, the maintenance and disposal of the radioactive wastes, and the decommissioning of the nuclear reactors.

- 1) Based on today's costs, new nuclear power would be 3 to 5 times more expensive than energy produced by wind or solar. By the time new nuclear facilities could be produced, wind and solar facilities will be even more cost effective.
- 2) There are many carbon producing steps that go into the production of the fuel used in nuclear reactors that should be taken into consideration regarding the "greenness" of this energy production technology. These carbon-burning steps include the mining, milling, enrichment, and transportation of the uranium. When the carbon consumption of these steps is considered, energy generated by nuclear reaction is NOT green energy.
- 3) The carbon-burning aspects of dealing with the accumulating wastes of nuclear reaction have not been considered in this bill. Since no solution to this problem has been found during the over 50 years of the waste production and accumulation, two carbon producing problems come to mind. First, the ongoing storage of the accumulated wastes requires constant cooling of the wastes to prevent radioactive emissions and/or fires. Second, calculating the carbon consumption of an unknown solution is difficult. One methodology would be to examine the carbon consumption of solutions that have been proposed over the years. I doubt that any of these methods would be considered "green" solutions.
- 4) Each nuclear reactor will face decommissioning and the methodologies used in this long process are known. The carbon costs of these methods must be calculated and considered before declaring energy produced from nuclear reaction to be "green energy".

I encourage you to expand your vision in your consideration of this challenging energy generation technology.