

L Babbey
December 9, 2024

Opposition testimony against HB 308 - “Include energy generated by nuclear reaction as green energy”

Chair Reineke,

I am a retired educator, grandmother and devout Christian whose faith informs the sacredness of our earthly resources. I adamantly oppose HB 308 and urge you to permanently remove this bill from the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee agenda.

It is well documented that there is nothing “green” about the lifecycle of nuclear energy. We cannot ignore the uranium mining, milling and enrichment; fuel fabrication; building of reactors, transportation of materials, and radioactive waste when we talk about the true costs, energy used, and carbon generated. There is no safe way to permanently store nuclear waste. Nuclear waste will harm human life.

Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs) clearly post the same problems and risks as large reactors, despite what some in the industry would like to “sell” us. Nuclear energy is now and will continue to be 3 to 5 times more expensive than true renewable energy sources. Taxpayers do not want to foot the bill and externalized costs to our communities while corporations reap the profits.

The current push for nuclear power is not simply about energy – it’s about building and retaining resources for nuclear weapons production. Ohioans should not become a sacrifice zone for nuclear weapons production.

Lastly, Ohio taxpayers and utilities customers are still reeling from the House Bill 6 First Energy scam. HB 308 opens the door to the same rip-off strategies aimed at taking public funds and putting them into the hands of private corporations and investors. I trust you do not wish to go down in history as a proponent of such crimes.

I urge you to oppose and remove HB 308.