

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 308 which would include energy generated by nuclear reactions as “green energy”. This is simply an attempt to “greenwash” an industry with a history of accidents, health and environmental harms, and one with ties to the war industry.

- Enormous amounts of materials and energy are required to construct a nuclear power plant. Sources say it takes 10 to 18 years before a plant actually begins to generate profits. One of the biggest obstacles is even finding a community willing to take on the risks involved in hosting a plant. One look at the issues with the Perry Nuclear plant on Lake Erie would cause a person to question any new construction let alone referring to this energy source as “green”.
- Nuclear power plants are notorious for thermal pollution created by discharging cooling water (billions of gallons per day) into surface water supplies. This water can be as much as 25 degrees F warmer than the water it is being discharged into. This results in severe ecological damage.
- Reactors generate considerable high-level wastes which remains radioactive for a quarter of a million years. Paying for the disposal, transportation of wastes and monitoring the wastes is costly and passed on to consumers.
- In 2021, First Solar in Toledo, which already has two plants in Ohio, announced a third Ohio plant which will produce thin film PV modules. This \$680 million dollar investment will be second only to China in number of panels produced. Why are we even considering nuclear energy and why are we trying to “soften” the dangers associated with this energy source by reclassifying it as green? We can have real clean energy in Ohio and we can have it within a year. Our communities can reap the tax benefits of this energy rather than continuing to pay to prop up aging nuclear plants.
- Technological improvements have now made renewable green energy cheaper than fossil fuel energy and certainly cheaper than nuclear. If Ohio wants to manufacture “green steel” and de-carbonize the steel making process in the Ohio River Valley, we need to embrace solar energy in our state, not reject it.

I strongly oppose HB 308 as a citizen, a grandparent and an engineer who knows there is nothing “green” about nuclear energy.

Joel Pokladnik, PE Civil Engineer, Retired US Army Corps of Engineers

Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683