



Opponent Testimony
Ohio House Bill 308 (Stein/Brennan)
Ohio Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee
December 10, 2024

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share Sierra Club Ohio's opponent testimony regarding House Bill 308, which would paradoxically define energy generated by nuclear reaction as "green energy."

The Sierra Club remains unequivocally opposed to the proliferation and continued generation of nuclear energy, both in Ohio and worldwide. The generation of nuclear energy poses serious threats to public safety, health and the environment. For example, nuclear power plants have been in operation globally for less than 75 years, yet in that time, the world has seen three major and tragic disasters. The fundamental problems and dangers associated with nuclear power have never been adequately addressed, and in addition to the risk of disaster at reactor sites, nuclear proliferation has required the long-term storage of hazardous nuclear waste, which remains lethal to humans for more than 100,000 years after it is used.

The proliferation of nuclear energy is not a solution to the problems caused by global climate change, and nuclear energy is *not* "green energy." Green energy is generated by truly clean sources, such as solar and wind, which can be operated with no or minimal negative consequences. Furthermore, the truest and best type of green energy is located as close to the source of consumption as possible; the renewable energy credit (REC) market is already complicated by disparate sources with far-flung geographies and challenges with verification. Adding nuclear energy to that mix would further complicate and burden the REC market, and it would benefit no one. Every dollar spent on the development of nuclear energy takes necessary resources away from the real sources of green energy in Ohio, such as solar and wind.

Instead of further propping up the dirty nuclear power industry, Ohio should do more to support the development of clean energy sources such as solar and wind. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

Shared renewables, also known as community renewables, are an emerging procurement model allowing multiple customers to buy, lease, or subscribe to a portion of a shared green power system that is usually located away from their home or business. The model is especially appealing to customers whose on-site resource potential is limited; customers who rent; or customers who are otherwise unable or unwilling to install a renewable energy generator on their residences or commercial buildings.

Community solar . . . is currently the most popular form of shared renewables. . . . According to a 2015 study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), over 50 percent of Americans who would like to use solar energy are unable to install a rooftop solar array. Shared renewable systems can enable those customers to purchase green power through an innovative supply option.

<https://www.epa.gov/green-power-markets/shared-renewables>. More than 20 other states have enacted community solar legislation, including Colorado, Illinois, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. You can give Ohioans those same opportunities; please turn your attention away from the false promises of the nuclear energy industry, and instead support large-scale, community and individual renewable energy projects.

We urge you to protect Ohio's families, farms and forests from the dangerous effects of nuclear energy, and vote "NO" on HB 308.

Thank you for supporting the people of Ohio.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ericka Copeland
State Director
Sierra Club Ohio