

Chairman William Reineke, Vice Chair Rob McColley, Ranking Member Kent Smith, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

My name is Daryl Davis. I am writing in opposition to HB308 titled "Include energy generated by nuclear reaction as green energy."

The first word that came to my mind at the sight of that title was mendacity. Nuclear power is not renewable; instead it relies on a fuel that is expected to become depleted in a few years. Nuclear power is not economical, it relies on the greatest amount of taxpayer subsidies of all power generators¹. Nuclear power spreads radioactive contamination at every phase of the fuel cycle, and that contamination is abundantly documented to cause damage to cells that continues for subsequent generations. To say that nuclear power generation creates no harm to the earth and its inhabitants is a falsehood. Veracity cannot be created by declaration.

This committee has an obligation to the truth and HB308 is an obvious fraud. The people of Ohio have elected their senators and representatives to act on their behalf. Citizens of Ohio put their trust in you to be diligent in the pursuit of facts despite the legislature's history of betrayal of that trust. . That the nuclear industry would be able to corrupt members of the Ohio legislature has been proven with the nationally recognized shame of HB6. The consequences of the HB6 debacle continue to unfold with new indictments and no repeal of the coal subsidies that remain in effect while taxpayers continue to pay.

No phase of the nuclear fuel cycle can be considered Green.

- Mining – open pit excavation of shallow deposits raising dust to be carried by wind and rain; deep underground poorly ventilated mines exposing workers to radon gas; and in situ mining, a process of leaching where uranium is dissolved in a liquid solution of chemicals hazardous to human health.
- Milling – grinding the ore to extract uranium resulting in yellowcake and in the release of radon gas and hazardous tailings left behind,
- Conversion of yellowcake – to UF₆.
- Low level enrichment –the toxic legacy of Piketon enrichment is now recognized by the Ohio EPA, if not the DOE.²
- High level enrichment – also formerly at Piketon which is now in the hands of Centrus to produce HALEU high assay low enriched uranium to be used in the not-yet-existing small modular reactors but more likely with the current military operations going on internationally, to be used for weapons.
- Fabrication Plants – convert the UF₆ to pellets
- Feed Materials – production of ingots for weapons use.
- Nuclear testing – producing fallout causing contamination of air, water, land and, through plant take up, the food we eat.
- Present nuclear inventory – 104 – 105 nuclear power plants of which Perry has the 4th or 5th worst safety record and Davis Besse, not far behind.
- Nuclear weapons storage
- Radioactive waste – 80 years of promises, no permanent solution in sight: low level including mill tailings containing radium that decays into radon gas, depleted uranium U238 contained in barrels; transuranic waste, artificially created elements including plutonium; and high level waste – spent fuel rods, now in cooling ponds and dry casks at 104 plants around the county.

Nuclear power will be 3 to 5 times more expensive than wind and solar and will take 10 – 20 years to deploy. There goes the climate change solution argument,

This is the tally of nuclear power's degradation of the earth's ecosystems and predation on workers who are now denied compensation for radiation sickness and death,.

1. "The nuclear industry is, pound for pound, the most subsidized energy industry in history." Tim Judson, NIRS, speaking on Democracy Now
2. "Ohio EPA reports radioactive contamination and environmental violations at Piketon Atomic Plant", Scioto Valley Guardian, December 3, 2024.

Piketon Atomic Plant"