

May 24, 2023

RE: Ohio Nuclear Free Network testimony in opposition to HB 33

Dear Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cerino, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

In December, I wrote testimony in opposition to HB 434, and now I find that the language of this bill has been inserted into the Budget Bill. I am copying below my previous testimony with the reasons why I oppose subsidizing an Ohio Nuclear Development Authority in the Budget Bill. I oppose HB 33 unless and until the language creating an Ohio Nuclear Development Authority is removed ([pages 1887-1987](#)).

As an Ohio taxpayer and grandmother of future Ohio taxpayers, I ask you to oppose creating and subsidizing an Ohio Nuclear Development Authority, previously proposed in HB 434. I ask you how long will Ohioans pay for this new Ohio body? I ask you how much will Ohioans be paying? The language of HB434, now inserted into the Budget Bill, leaves answers to these questions to the imagination.

The bill provides no accountability mechanism. This Authority will have no public oversight. The Authority will be placed under the auspices of the Ohio Department of Development which writes contract for JobsOhio. Extraordinary limitations on public access to JobsOhio were written into law more than a decade ago. Jobs Ohio is beyond the reach of the Ohio Open Records Act, Ohio ethics laws, the Sunshine Act, the Ohio Administrative Procedure Act, and other accountability requirements.

Bill promoters have given no hint—and the public would not be able to find out—who is being paid, what is being developed, or where radioactive materials are being shipped.

This much the public knows: Wall Street won't invest in nuclear power. So why should we? Wall Street knows nuclear power cannot compete with renewables.

The Authority would define its work as “research and development.” The federal government is spending billions on nuclear research and development. I see no reason to expect that Ohio, with no experience, would do a better job of oversight and running of research reactors. Ohio will not benefit by competing with the federal government on this research.

Major concerns for Ohio residents are left unaddressed in this bill. Costs of contamination, cleanup, and decommissioning are not covered. What about the inevitable spills, leaks, discharges, or accidents causing radioactive contamination, property damage, or public health disasters? Ohio taxpayers would be left paying the bills and living with the damage to our beautiful state.

Why would you ask this of us? Ohioans need accountability, not secrecy. Ohioans need their tax moneys and public resources carefully and wisely guarded. The language of HB 434 does none of this. We will be left in the dark, but we'll be holding the bill.

I urge you to take the language creating an Ohio Nuclear Development Authority out of the Budget Bill.

Sincerely,

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