

Written Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 294

Chair Chavez, Vice Chair Landis, and Ranking Member Smith,

My name is Gina Doyle, and I am an Ohio resident. I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 294 due to Ohio's nuclear legacy and the ongoing, unresolved health and environmental consequences associated with nuclear activities in our state.

Communities surrounding the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PORTS) continue to live with radioactive and chemical contamination resulting from decades of nuclear operations. These impacts are not confined to the past. The PORTS site is subject to Environmental Covenants that restrict land and groundwater use, prohibit residential development in certain areas, and require ongoing monitoring to prevent exposure to residual radioactive contamination and vapor intrusion. These legally binding covenants are a permanent acknowledgment that the land is not fully safe for unrestricted use.

Families in the PORTS region continue to face cancer diagnoses, chronic illnesses, and uncertainty about environmental exposure, while also living with property devaluation and land-use limitations imposed by contamination they did not cause. Many affected residents are still seeking recognition, transparency, and medical support, underscoring that the harms

associated with nuclear activities in Ohio are ongoing and unresolved.

Senate Bill 294 advances nuclear-related policy without adequately addressing long-term radioactive waste management, enforceable cleanup standards, or the realities faced by communities living under Environmental Covenants like those at PORTS. Radioactive waste remains hazardous for generations, and the burden of containment, monitoring, and restriction continues to fall on local communities rather than the industry that benefited.

Scientific evidence demonstrates that there is no safe threshold for exposure to ionizing radiation, and women and children are particularly vulnerable to its effects. Energy policy must reflect this reality by prioritizing public health, transparency, and accountability.

Ohio's energy future should not repeat the mistakes of the past. A responsible and truly clean energy policy must recognize existing nuclear contamination, respect affected communities, and avoid expanding systems that create permanent environmental restrictions and long-term health risks.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 294.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

**Sincerely,
Gina Doyle
Piketon , Ohio**