

VOTE NO on SB294

SB 294 states that Ohio needs affordable, clean energy and then goes on to proclaim that Nuclear and fracked gas fill that bill. However, studies show that nuclear is simply too expensive, too time-consuming, and too dangerous a technology to compete with renewables as an alternative to decarbonize the global economy.

I have never been a proponent of nuclear energy. Some of my angst can be traced back to my days as a grade school student in the Cold War era of the 1960s. We practiced nuclear drills and viewed films of nuclear detonations.

In the late 1990s, I had the opportunity to visit the nuclear library of Los Alamos, New Mexico. This was just after President Clinton's Energy Secretary, Hazel O' Leary, had declassified hundreds of nuclear research documents. One group of documents represented over 400 experiments carried out on humans, many of them without informed consent. One document, "American Nuclear Guinea Pigs: Three Decades of Radiation Experiments on U.S. Citizens," described various experiments performed on populations within our society including mentally handicapped people, prisoners, soldiers and the elderly.

The nuclear industry has earned a reputation of being deceptive and untrustworthy. Russia initially tried to hide the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor which resulted in an explosion that blew over ten tons of radioactive debris and fuel into the atmosphere.

"As of January 2018, 1.8 million people in Ukraine, including 377,589 children, had the status of victims of the disaster." Health effects are still occurring even in populations outside the contamination zone.

Until the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear accident, Chernobyl was the worst nuclear disaster in history. The Japanese reactor accident was a result of faulty safety equipment. An earthquake triggered tsunami caused a loss of power, rendering the cooling systems inoperable. Three reactors were heavily damaged.

The USA witnessed its own nuclear accident when in the early morning hours of March 28, 1979, the Unit 2 reactor of the Three-Mile Island Power Plant in Londonderry Township, PA experienced a partial meltdown. Studies show that the accident exposed the failures of cooling water systems and the lack of adequate training.

Another major issue with nuclear energy is the disposal of the highly radioactive wastes. Even the Small Modular Reactors (SMR) which produce less than 300 MW of electricity will generate dangerous radioactive wastes. A peer reviewed study said, SMRs will produce more voluminous

and chemically/physically reactive waste than Light Water Reactors, which will impact options for disposal of the waste.

There is a proposal to dump high level radioactive wastes into granite, limestone and salt formations in the Great Lakes Basin. This would jeopardize the drinking water of over 40,000,000 people. Additionally, it will cost \$ 4.5 billion to clean up the nuclear waste nightmare at the now-closed nuclear fuel enrichment plant in Piketon, Ohio.

Why would Ohio want this antiquated, dangerous source of energy?

To call fracked gas clean is just a flat out lie. There isn't anything clean about the entire process from the drilling, radioactive wastes, air and water pollution and degradation of the land. I could go on and on about these two energy sources and how renewables provide a much safer, affordable and cleaner sources of energy but why? Why would I try to convince a group of willfully ignorant politicians to do the right thing for our grandkid's future?

My mom always stressed integrity as we were growing up. Once you are caught in a lie, a misrepresentation, an exaggeration, whatever you call distorting the truth... no one can really ever trust your word again. Voting on a bill that is clearly based on a lie, a mis-representation is just another example of why Ohio is losing the battle to keep citizens in the state. You can call a duck a chicken but it doesn't change the fact that it isn't. You can label nuclear and fracked gas as clean but that doesn't change the facts... but Ohio's Republican politicians don't really care about facts.

Dr. Randi Pokladnik