



Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Bill 44
February 16, 2021

Chairman Peterson and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on Senate Bill 44 (SB 44).

The Alliance for Energy Choice is an Ohio non-profit corporation that seeks to promote fairness and competition in electric utility service. The Alliance advocates for free-market solutions that will ensure an adequate and fairly priced supply of electric power to Ohio's residents, businesses, and industries. The Alliance also advocates for policies that do not favor one supplier or one form of energy over another.

Our membership applauds Senators Cirino and Rulli for taking this important step to repeal in full the harmful and unnecessary nuclear subsidy enacted last General Assembly in House Bill 6 (HB 6). It has become abundantly clear, as the detailed facts and information have been made public through the multiple ongoing legal and regulatory proceedings related to HB 6, that the subsidy funds were not needed by Energy Harbor to keep the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear plants operational. Thus, saddling customers with nearly \$1 billion in unwarranted charges would be improper and imprudent.

While we do not understand the decision to retain the utility scale solar subsidy from HB 6, as that provision directly picks a select few winners in an industry that is flush with projects across this state that are not in need of a subsidy, the market-altering impact of the unneeded nuclear subsidy would be far more detrimental to the cost of electricity for Ohio consumers. As stated above, the Alliance members believe in competitive markets as Ohio consumers continue to benefit from competition. Subsidies by their very nature artificially distort markets and prices and should be avoided.

We are appreciative of the Ohio Senate taking yet another step to fix HB 6 related inequities in Ohio law. We also look forward to the chamber addressing several other anti-competitive provisions currently in statute that need to be changed in order to further level the playing field for other market participants and to enhance fairness and transparency for customers.

We are grateful for this opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on SB 44. The Alliance urges the Ohio Senate to act swiftly on behalf of Ohio's citizens and businesses to repeal the unfair and unnecessary nuclear subsidy.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like further information regarding this document or the Alliance for Energy Choice.



The Alliance for Energy Choice membership currently includes Calpine, Eastern Generation, The Energy Professionals of Ohio, LS Power, and Vistra Energy.