

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 44. My name is Jack Thompson, and I am the Superintendent of Perry Local Schools in Perry Township, which sits just down the road from the Perry Nuclear Plant. I write this testimony in support of Senate Bill 44.

As Superintendent to Perry Local School District, my biggest priority is providing a quality access to education for my students and their families. The extent to which we rely on the tax revenue from the Perry Nuclear Power Plant to maintain this priority cannot be overstated. The total revenues for the school district have fallen over 19% (\$29.1 million to \$23.7 million) from state and local tax revenue for the 20-year span 1995-97 average revenue to the 2015-17 average revenue. Over the next 5 years, the district may lose an additional 10%-20% of existing revenue if current state foundation formulas and projected collections remain the same and if the power plant does indeed reduce its valuation. During the conversations of House Bill 6 last General Assembly, my main priority was to help Perry Township's elected officials make the best decision for our community and students, and the best way to do this was to keep the Perry Nuclear Plant operating. While some tainted the process of House Bill 6, the top priority of keeping the plants operational through these energy subsidies was satisfied. Keeping the power plant open and guaranteeing the tax revenue from the plant, provided our school district six years of stable tax revenues.

We understand that the subsidies passed in HB 6 could inhibit the operation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, and without these subsidies the Perry Nuclear Plant will continue in operation. Keeping the plants open is essential to our ability to continuing to educate our students. I would recommend holding the schools harmless from future tax devaluation from the Perry Nuclear Plant. The loss of 6-year guaranteed tax revenue for Perry Schools in this bill is concerning, however, the plant continuing to operate is a win-win for not only Perry Township but also our state as a whole. Initial estimates show that by removing the nuclear subsidies from the House Bill 6 legislation, Ohio energy ratepayers will save \$1 billion. At a time when our communities are struggling, this money is crucial for families. Senate Bill 44, introduced by Senators Cirino and Rulli, would codify the removal of these subsidies and would remove the cloud that has hovered over House Bill 6, Columbus, and the community of Perry Township throughout this process. It is our expectation that Perry Schools would be held harmless if, for some unforeseen reason, the tax revenue received from the PNPP is reduced. Families and students in our community can be confident knowing that the jobs and the economic value that the Perry Nuclear Plant brings to this state will continue, and Ohio will only continue to prosper. It gives me great pleasure knowing that Perry Local students can continue receiving access to the education they deserve, and by allowing the plants to remain operational, this can happen.

I would like to thank Senator, and former Commissioner Cirino, for standing up for the people of Perry, and Commissioner Stahl for the people of Ottawa County. Thank you to Senators Cirino and Rulli for introducing this bill and your continued support. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I encourage you to support Senate Bill 44.

Jack K. Thompson Ed.D.

*Superintendent
Perry Local Schools*