

r.e.: HB6 Bailout of the OVEC Coal Plants

Senators of the State of Ohio:

My name is Dennis Meyers, a lifelong citizen of the state and a lifelong customer of Ohio Edison/First Energy. I currently live in Amherst Ohio.

Now 68 years of age, I've been witness to the endless bailouts and giveaways to the states electric utility companys over the course of these many years. I have been the owner of an all-electric home for the past 26 years and have seen the cost of electricity go up and up unchecked. The ability to choose an electricity generator-provider does little to ameliorate the overall cost when the charge for delivery is more than that for the electricity itself, due to all of the "riders" and attachments to the rate.

The PUCO and the republican dominated state government have always been unapologetic shills for First Energy, granting them whatever outrageous handout they demanded. Even after the recent \$60 million HB6 bribery conspiracy scandal between state government and First Energy, state representatives were reluctant to repeal any part of the bill, hoping that the public uproar would eventually subside. If the SEC hadn't gotten involved, I doubt that state government would have done anything. But instead of repealing the entire dirty bill, they kept the bailout of the OVEC coal plants, even though one of the plants isn't even located in the state of Ohio! Ohioans shouldn't be paying more each month to bail out two dirty, inefficient, expensive 1950s coal plants for the next decade. It's now time to do the right thing and repeal the entire bill. With the worldwide push to move towards clean energy to try and stem the ravages of climate change, we should move away from the dirty and obsolete business of coal. These plants should be retired, not bailed out. **SB117 is the first step in that process.**

While you're at it, how about restoring the Ohio Consumer's Council to what it once was. Reinststate the funding that was taken away so that they can be fully staffed and once again be a strong and meaningful voice for Ohio utility customers.

Dennis R. Meyers

Amherst (Brownhelm Township) Ohio