

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ms. Ranking Member and all the distinguished members of the committee. My name is Travis Irvine and I am the former Libertarian candidate for Governor of Ohio. On behalf of myself, the Libertarian Party of Ohio and nearly 80,000 Ohioans who voted for me in 2018, I'm proud to stand with a multi-partisan alliance and submit my written testimony in support of SB 117, which would repeal yet another unnecessary ratepayer-funded bailout implemented by the historically corrupt HB 6. SB 117 tackles the costly bailouts going to two Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC) coal plants – one called Kyger Creek, which is in Ohio and another called Clifty Creek, *which is in Indiana*. SB 117 would help restore a level playing field to Ohio's energy sector, as well as integrity to our Statehouse.

First I want to commend Senators Romanchuk and Craig for joining forces on this issue. Senator Romanchuk, you were one of the few Republicans who tried to right the wrongs of HB 6 while you were still in the House and I hope you have more success with your endeavors in the less-scandal-ridden Senate. I actually remember testifying in front of the House's Energy Committee in December and when I said that, "Conservatives need to be more like Teddy Roosevelt, because conservation is conservative," you nodded in agreement and I appreciated that. And Senator Craig, it's always an honor to know that you represent myself and the good people of Bexley, as well as integrity, in the Ohio Senate. While I did get a "REPEAL HB6" facemask to your staffer last year for you to potentially wear, I'm not mad if you didn't wear it, because it would be a bigger crime to cover up the best mustache in Ohio Statehouse history.

As we all found out in July 2020, HB 6 was the culmination of a shady group of energy companies, lawmakers and lobbyists allegedly spending \$60 million in dark money on statehouse races to secure a \$1.5 billion bailout from the legislature, all to be paid for by Ohio's ratepayers. At first, three of Ohio's electric utilities – AEP, Duke and Dayton Power & Light – *opposed* HB 6 because only FirstEnergy and Energy Harbor got a bailout for their Davis Besse and Perry nuclear plants. But after the Ohio legislature offered a bailout for OVEC's two failing coal plants as well, the companies decided to support the exceedingly corrupt bill. In 2020, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) actually carried out an independent audit of the OVEC bailout, which confirmed it had been a bad investment and that with increased capital investment, the costs would go up even more. The auditor also found the OVEC coal plants were being run at times where costs were even higher for customers, meaning Ohioans would *save* money if the plants *weren't* even running. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel says Ohioans have now paid \$112 million towards the coal plants since January 2020 and before that, \$159 million was paid in other subsidies from 2012-2019. The Ohio Manufacturers Association calculates that \$700 million in ratepayer money will continue to go to the OVEC coal plants until the end of 2030, with \$233,000 rolling in everyday! We all know HB 6 was a terrible bill to begin with, but it truly comes off even worse now.

And while some representatives in the House may have been fine sending Ohio ratepayers' hard earned money *to Indiana* with HB 6's OVEC bailouts, I sincerely hope the level-headed folks here in the Ohio Senate (on both sides) will do the right thing for the people of Ohio, by supporting SB 117 and continuing to repeal *all* parts of HB 6. Then this body can make sure the elongated tentacles of the corrupt HB 6 scandal will *not* be a stain on your own political records, the 134th Ohio General Assembly or this entire institution. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Travis Irvine
Former Candidate for Governor
Libertarian Party of Ohio
Bexley, Ohio