

9-21-21

Testimony before the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

RE: SB 118 Repeal renewable resource credit payment provisions of HB 6.

TO: Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the committee,

My name is Patricia Marida. I live in Columbus on land that was inhabited by the Wyandot Hurons, Ottawas, Chippewas and Potawatomis and most recently by the Shawnee.

I wish to speak in opposition to the repeal of the renewable resource credit payment provisions on HB 6.

The Native Americans whom I just mentioned were indigenous peoples who lived close to the earth and understood the connection between the humans and the natural environment. Although I cannot speak as a person of native blood, it is well understood that these earlier inhabitants honored the natural world that is our life support system.

Now that Americans live largely in a built environment, that vital connection to the natural world has become hidden from our immediate view as we look at automobiles, pavement and factories. But the vital connection to the natural world is still there. And we ignore it at our peril.

Unfortunately, the monetary system that currently emphasizes the next quarter's profit, and the cultural valuation of individual acquisition of unlimited resources hides the long-term consequences of a natural world out of balance.

It is much easier to deny the fact that the planet is being warmed by the burning of fossil fuels and threatened by high-level radioactive waste than it is to change our thinking about ourselves and our role as living creatures dependent on clean water, clean air and a stable climate. Just as jumping off a roof cannot be made safer by denying gravity, so we cannot be made safer by denying that destruction of living systems is not affecting us.

That is why I am asking this committee and the members of the legislature to look with the rest of us beyond the next few years at the lives of all our children, grandchildren and those yet unborn.

Everything that needs to be done to stop catastrophic climate change will, in actuality, keep our lives as intact as possible and will be an enormous benefit to society as a whole.

Truly renewable energy resources, like wind and sunshine, are plentiful. Humans have the smarts and the ingenuity to tap into them and use them to make ourselves happy and comfortable. Our elected officials need to understand this reality and act in a manner that will actually preserve our lives and our so called "lifestyle." Ignoring the reality of floods, fires, hurricanes and pandemics will in fact bring on the drastic changes that some leaders seem to fear will happen if our current, outdated energy sources are kept in place.

Renewables are here. They are currently priced far below nuclear and even below the cost of fossil fuels. Every human action has a footprint, but the footprint of renewables is far less than that of fossil fuels and nuclear power. Humans have no real solution for what to do with radioactive waste which is building up at commercial reactors and is currently leaking into the environment from all industries dealing with radioactivity.

It is time for our legislator to move from the past into the future, and support the industries that produce the most jobs, which are the renewable sources of solar and wind. And these jobs are the safest jobs as well, that do not have to deal with the dangerous substances in the fossil fuels and do not have to have guards standing over them like nuclear power stations.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Patricia Marida