

Dear Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman, Schuring, and Ranking Member, Martin and members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to HB434.

My name is Daryl Davis, and I was born at the beginning of the Atomic Age. In my lifetime, I have seen and been aware of the entire history of the modern nuclear industry from its early promises to its more recent failures. It came in secret, and its operations contaminated almost every facility it touched, some of which are right here in Ohio, some of which are permanently poisoned or off-limits, and some so expensive to decommission that they will be dangerously radioactive for the rest of human existence on this earth. At the end of the WWII, we were subjected to a publicity blitz that promised atoms for peace and electricity too cheap to meter. What we got was hundreds of thousands of tons of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel and waste products stored at hundreds of sites around the world that are impossible to safely store for the periods of time they will remain lethally poisonous and a threat to life on earth. I've been to Three Mile Island, and I've been to Chernobyl. Unlike most of the proponents of HB 434, I don't take money from the nuclear industry and I don't stand to benefit financially from supporting or opposing it. I'm only here to give you my 80-plus years of insight into the issue.

Incidentally, I am a founding member of the Green Party of Ohio and current Chair of its Energy Committee, and yes, our party platform is very anti-nuclear, but I am not here to recite party doctrine to you... I'm here as a citizen of Ohio, 5th great-granddaughter of Ohio homesteaders and great-grandmother of a two-year old whose mother is a school teacher in Lorain County. I may be dead by the time this bill's promises are broken and millions of dollars, or more, are wasted on its dumb ideas, but that doesn't mean I don't care or that the long-term consequences of poor choices and bad investments in our future shouldn't matter to you.

There is a lot we don't know about what specific goals or results this bill will have. One of the things we do know is that there won't be any way to find out if and when it becomes law.

We do know that the types of "Advanced Nuclear Reactors" the Ohio Nuclear Authority would fund were conceived and first tested in the 1950's and they were all deemed more complicated and expensive to develop than our current boiling and pressurized water power reactors. These, we know, have proven to be challenging and expensive enough. Things like HB6 ought to be evidence enough of that.

Fuel reprocessing, TRICO fuel pellets, molten salt, Thorium, pebble beds, gas-cooling, and small modular reactors may all be interesting to nuclear physicists and scientists. The money spent on these expensive activities and ideas will also be interesting to those looking for a quick buck, windfall profits, or Caribbean vacations; but as an Ohioan, I think of us as practical, sensible and honest people. We do our part, but we're not sloppy with our money. We don't buy pigs in a poke. That refers to when **something is bought without knowing its true nature or value**, especially when buying without inspecting the item beforehand.

If we appoint an "Authority", we need objective people to make decisions, and not a raft of industry insiders with their hands out for public funds in exchange for fantasies of nuclear paradise.

We need to know if the organization that will benefit from this bill has a facility from which to begin its work. Or where would this R&D process take place? Is there a property involved in this plan or would taxpayers be on the hook for real estate acquisition, excavation, construction, maintenance, and likely ongoing expansion? Not to mention clean-up and decommissioning. How many years would that take? And who would be the property owner? What tax breaks would they get? Of course as a public entity there would be no property tax on the acreage taken out of the public revenue once "acquisition" takes place. What other tax breaks would eGeneration get? What is our likely financial liability? How about employees' salaries – and how many of them? How much infrastructure would be required and who would pay for it?

I watched the Proponent testimony for HB434 on Tuesday November 29. What I saw and heard was a bucket list of hopes and dreams for continued nuclear development in the form of SMRs from the folks at eGeneration.

I heard Ed Pheil state that he wants to have Ohio take over some of the duties of the NRC, as if Ohio had any prospects of performing regulatory duties any better than the federal agency.

I heard Dr. William Thesling talk about the necessity of reactors to produce isotopes for cancer treatment and Patty Gascoyne insisting that there are no isotopes being produced in the U.S. Both are either giving deliberate misinformation or are gravely uninformed.

I heard Don Larson repeat the old claim that these new reactors would be too cheap to meter, a line I would expect to hear on Comedy Central. I also heard him characterize the failure of the Texas grid as the proof of the unreliability of wind and not the failure of the Texas authority to provide for available protection against freezing temperatures.

I heard Jon Morrow complain that the federal government has a monopoly on nuclear power and claim that advanced nuclear reactors could produce energy at 2 cents per kwh. (No mention that this bill would give a monopoly to a single company.) Morrow did say that there was no jobs component of the bill as if to dismiss the premise that JobsOhio would be involved.

I heard David Amerine launch into a hard sell of the advanced nuclear reactors that are supposed to be the end result of this bill if you believe that the R&D effort will produce any results.

He told the committee that safety and waste are the concerns of the uneducated. He went on to regurgitate the canard that wind and solar are unreliable when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining, but Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, says that solar, wind, and battery storage "can do the job economically and reliably about 95% of the time."

Armine said that no civilian has ever been harmed by nuclear reactors although according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor: Office of Worker's Compensation Programs, EEOICP Program Statistics. PORTS GDP Total Compensation + Medical Bills Paid \$1,125,163,084. That's one billion, one hundred twenty-five million, one hundred sixty-three thousand, eighty four dollars.

He said that a breach of containment was highly improbable, never mind the near breach at Davis-Besse, and he went on to say that redundant safety systems at Davis-Besse and Perry are the cause of unreasonable costs.

He said that waste from nuclear operations is miniscule compared to wind and solar. Then he revealed what, as a retired President of Nuclear Fuel Services is probably his biggest concern: that the navy has only a 6 month supply of fuel for its ships. So much for the careful description of the military application as "national security". And if that is so, shouldn't that be confidential information?

Does this sound like a description of the project as research and development or of the bill itself which is about the creation of the Ohio NDA and how its board will be chosen?

Senators from the Cleveland area will remember the "Medical Mart" boondoggle. We sat and heard the same type of pie in the sky prognostications of its benefits. Residents saw a .25% hike in sales tax, the most regressive and punitive funding possible for a citizenry struggling in the poorest city in the country. Most of us called it a boondoggle. It has frequently failed to break even and cannot be retrofitted for other use.

Is Ohio so desperate that it too has to fall for a boondoggle?

Sincerely,
Daryl Davis, Cleveland, Ohio