

December 5, 2022

Chairman Rob McColley  
Members of Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

RE: Ohio Nuclear Free Network testimony in opposition to HB 434

Dear Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the committee:

As an Ohio taxpayer and grandmother of future Ohio taxpayers, I ask you to oppose HB 454. I ask you how long will Ohioans pay for this new Ohio body? I ask you how much will Ohioans be paying? HB434 leaves answers to these questions to the imagination.

The bill provides no accountability mechanism. This Authority will have no public oversight. The Authority will be placed under the auspices of the Ohio Department of Development which writes contract for JobsOhio. Extraordinary limitations on public access to JobsOhio were written into law more than a decade ago. Jobs Ohio is beyond the reach of the Ohio Open Records Act, Ohio ethics laws, the Sunshine Act, the Ohio Administrative Procedure Act, and other accountability requirements.

Bill promoters have given no hint—and the public would not be able to find out—who is being paid, what is being developed, or where radioactive materials are being shipped.

This much the public knows: Wall Street won't invest in nuclear power. So why should we? Wall Street knows nuclear power cannot compete with renewables.

The Authority would define its work as “research and development.” The federal government is spending billions on nuclear research and development. I see no reason to expect that Ohio, with no experience, would do a better job of oversight and running of research reactors. Ohio will not benefit by competing with the federal government on this research.

Major concerns for Ohio residents are left unaddressed in this bill. Costs of contamination, cleanup, and decommissioning are not covered. What about the inevitable spills, leaks, discharges, or accidents causing radioactive contamination, property damage, or public health disasters? Ohio taxpayers would be left paying the bills and living with the damage to our beautiful state.

Why would you ask this of us? Ohioans need accountability, not secrecy. Ohioans need their tax moneys and public resources carefully and wisely guarded. HB 434 does none of this. We will be left in the dark, but we'll be holding the bill.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 434.

Sincerely,

Josephine Setzler  
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