

Testimony in Opposition to Ohio HB 434

12-6-2022

Chairman Mc Colley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Martin, and members of the committee,

I oppose Ohio H.B. 434 and ask that you please do the same. This bill raises more questions than it answers about creation of an Ohio Nuclear Development Authority. It also brings to mind the painful memory of H.B. 6, also nuclear industry related, and its conflicts of interest and corruption.

I am an ordinary taxpaying citizen of Ohio. I am not a scientist, politician or lobbyist. However, the obvious first reaction to this nuclear-related legislation is why in the world do we need this in 2022 when solar and wind are renewable, safer, cheaper and readily available? What is the true underlying motive for creating this nuclear authority in Ohio? The federal government already researches and develops nuclear power and Ohio does not need to spend our taxpayer money on this. It would be redundant and costly to do this here, creating a lost opportunity to use funds where they are truly needed and also creating a new tax burden on Ohioans.

There is no mention in HB 434 how much the proposed Authority would cost or how much its efforts would cost. It would be a money pit, costing thousands, millions of dollars or more. Is Ohio so flush with taxpayer monies that we can afford this?

The second reaction to this nuclear-related legislation is what is the impact on the public? There seems to be no provision for accountability to the public, to the taxpayers footing the bill. What about safety and legal concerns of Ohioans? The bill allows for acquiring private property. What recourse would Ohioans have in the face of eminent domain imposed by a nuclear authority?

HB 434 raises many questions about efforts to find yet another way to spend taxpayer money on something that benefits someone somewhere but in the scheme of things not the people of Ohio. Please do not support HB 434, and vote no on it.

Sincerely,

Vickie Van Der Kar
Columbus, Ohio