

**Testimony of Ed Klco
Mayor, North Perry Village**

**Before the Ohio Senate Public Utilities Committee
Hearing on Ohio Senate Bill 128: Zero-Emissions Nuclear Resource Program (ZEN)
June 1, 2017**

Chairman Beagle and members of the Ohio Senate Public Utilities Committee, I'm Ed Klco, Mayor of North Perry Village, Ohio. Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the importance of acting to preserve the significant value of nuclear power in our state.

North Perry Village is a community of about 900 residents located in the heart of Lake County on the shores of Lake Erie. In local government, we strive together to preserve our village's semi-rural character, while thoughtfully accommodating new growth and development. Our primary focus always is on working diligently to enhance the quality of life for our residents.

I am here today because a significant contributor to the high quality of life we enjoy in our village is facing an uncertain future. I'm speaking of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, which is operated in North Perry Village by FirstEnergy. The plant is a 24/7 workhorse that generates enough clean, carbon-free electricity to power more than 1 million homes. And, it has been a strong supporter of our community and the local economy for the past 30 years.

The Perry Plant is one of the largest employers in Lake County, providing 700 high-quality, full-time jobs. It employs an additional 1,000 temporary workers during refueling outages, which occur every two years. In 2016, the plant contributed about \$14 million in state and local tax revenues that support our schools and important public services, including local police and fire departments.

I have toured the Perry Plant and am on a first-name basis with its management team, which consistently apprises me firsthand of key plant developments. I have witnessed the dedication and professionalism exhibited by the men and women who work at the plant, and their commitment to safe, secure, reliable and environmentally responsible operations.

I should also mention the many positive ways the plant's employees – many who live in North Perry Village – contribute to United Way, Harvest for Hunger and a wide range of community-based charities and organizations. These employees are dedicated to enhancing life in our community, and give generously each year of themselves through volunteer efforts that make a difference to numerous charitable groups and causes.

While the economic impact of the Perry Nuclear Power plant is substantial, the combined economic impact of our state's two nuclear plants is staggering. Statewide, the nuclear industry employs more than 4,300 Ohioans ... and you can imagine the ripple created by the millions of dollars these employees and vendors spend in our communities.

Ohio simply cannot afford to shutter its nuclear power plants, which produce 11 percent of the power consumed in our state each year. While some may point to low-cost natural gas as the answer, natural gas plants lack the environmental benefits, efficiency and unmatched reliability that nuclear provides. Natural gas plants also lack the proven track record the Perry and Davis-Besse plants have of being good neighbors while providing significant benefits to our region and state.

On behalf of North Perry Village, I urge you to take action on Senate Bill 128 to preserve the value nuclear power brings to Ohio consumers and communities by establishing a Zero-Emissions Nuclear Resource Program. ZEN will ensure Ohio's nuclear plants continue to support good jobs, economic growth, reliable and affordable electricity and environmental progress in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my perspective.