

July 19, 2020

HB104 Senate Testimony

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB104.

Nuclear energy will play an increasing and pivotal role in securing the world's clean energy needs. I rise today in support of Substitute House Bill 104, the ANTHEM Act, which will bring Ohio to the forefront of advanced nuclear innovation and strengthen domestic supply chains.

In recent years, there has been a global shift in attitudes toward the development of new nuclear technologies to deploy scalable clean energy. Both Russia and China have adopted a "go global" policy with respect to exporting nuclear technology including complete reactor infrastructure.

These developments should trouble US regulators, academic communities, and domestic manufacturers involved in this highly specialized field. Fortunately, Congress has recognized the threat and is working to address deficiencies in the civilian nuclear fleet and its military applications.

Ohio is a key player in the nuclear technology supply chain:

- The Ohio State University offers one of the few remaining PhD nuclear engineering programs in the county

- Babcock & Wilcox has a large footprint in Euclid and Akron, employing over 4,000 high skill tradesmen, fabricating steam boilers and nuclear submarine reactor vessels
- NASA operations at the Sandusky-Plum Brook Station, and the Brook Park-Glenn Research Center are exploring the possibilities of deep space propulsion using nuclear isotopes
- Cardinal Health in Dublin maintains the world's largest medical isotope pharmacy network; the tracer elements used in nearly every medical diagnostic scan.

HB104 is a proactive measure to tell the federal government Ohio is here to be solution for companies that no longer trust foreign governments with their intellectual property. This legislation directs the establishment of a nuclear regulatory Authority upon delegated authority by the Dept. of Energy. At the petition of the House in 2019, these programs are in the agency rulemaking process.

The next generation of advanced reactors and micro reactors are being built. The United States may soon fall behind if our manufacturing base is not equip, like what happened to steel to Asian markets. Ohio can lead this technology sector with legislation like the ANTHEM Act.

Thank you for your attention. I will take any question the committee may have.

