

Testimony in Support of Repealing House Bill 6

In 2005 my husband and I had solar panels installed on our home in NJ. We received subsidies from both the federal and state governments and were able to sell excess energy credits to the secondary market. This market was created by NJ to allow residents to recoup their capital investment, incentivizing the development of the solar industry and the benefits it provided – cleaner air, jobs and feeding the grid with excess capacity. The company who installed our panels was owned by one of our neighbors and employed three people.

Fast forward to 2012. We now lived in Ohio and were working on a float for the Granville 4th of July parade. The theme of the float was sustainability, and it won 1st place in the parade that year. The temperature was over 100 degrees and the derecho had just blown through our neighborhood. The damage to our neighborhood alone looked to be hundreds of thousands of dollars and we had been without power for 5 days. After the parade, we left Ohio and drove through Maryland, where we saw the path of destruction of the derecho for hundreds of miles.

While attending Ohio State's environmental science graduate program, I that scientists continued to link more intense and destructive weather events to climate change. While difficult to link to a specific event, the evidence of increasing intensity of such events was becoming undeniable.

By 2015, my husband and I had helped several families in Granville install solar panel systems on their roofs and yards. The panels we helped install were made in the US, supporting jobs. Even more folks wanted systems, but without the capitol money in the form of a carbon dividend or subsidy, they could not afford the upfront cost. When the switch was flipped on the systems we helped install, the meters spun backwards and sent locally produced electricity into the grid, helping to stabilize it during times of high demand.

When the proposals by the Ohio legislature came out to repeal energy efficiency standards in the form of HB 6, I called my Ohio representatives and asked them not to repeal the standards, because I knew what a difference they could make both for reducing consumers energy costs and to reduce coal emissions. However, I was told by my representatives that they did not really care about alternative energy and only cared about the constituency who kept re-electing them, and the contributions they were receiving.

In 2019, when I saw the commercials on TV which said that the Chinese were taking over our energy grid, I knew from my experiences that this was a lie. I also knew that dark money groups involved in the effort to stop the repeal of HB 6 were not transparent, so conflicts of interest could not be discerned by citizens. I didn't need to see the analysis by the Energy and Policy Institute, which found that found that utilities benefiting from the new subsidies from HB 6 donated \$1.65 million to Ohio politicians and parties since 2017, ... including Larry Householder.

Now I am being forced to bail out two coal fired power plants. Emissions from coal fired power plants contaminated the fisheries in NJ years before I moved to Ohio. Coal took away my fisheries. Now I am being forced to subsidize this free dumping and disgusting state of affairs.

Proponents of HB 6 - do not claim to support jobs, because I know that alternative energy and efficiency standards help create jobs. Do not pretend that you are concerned about costs to consumers, because I have already saved money by efficiency standards. Unless you repeal HB 6, claim to be what you are – hypocrites.

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