

Repeal of House Bill 6 Testimony

Good Afternoon, my name is Lee Blackburn, I reside in Pataskala, Ohio and I am writing in favor of repealing HB 6

Although most testimony will be about the need to repeal HB 6, my testimony is about why we need major changes in the legislature on November 3rd if we expect this to happen. In the affidavit presented in July, paragraph 70 notes the Householder Enterprise recruited 21 candidates who voted for him for speaker, with all but two going on to vote for HB 6.

The recruitments for "Team Householder" entailed hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent on behalf of the candidates by Larry Householder, Generation Now and FirstEnergy. All but one of these individuals are still in the Ohio House, including Larry Householder himself. Worse still, Householder, Generation Now and FirstEnergy spent additional monies on over a dozen primary candidates this past April, including over \$600,000 on just one candidate to ensure his victory.

If that isn't bad enough, Bob Cupp, who was elected Speaker of the House to replace Larry Householder and who set up the Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight, not only voted for HB 6 but has also taken close to \$25,000 from FirstEnergy over the years. In addition, Sam Randazzo, Chair of the PUCO, and who has been accused of having a conflict of interest over HB 6, has contributed to Speaker Cupp's election campaign on multiple occasions.

What's more, James Hoops, who was appointed to be the Chair of the Select Committee, has himself taken thousands of dollars from FirstEnergy as well as voted for HB 6. Additionally, two members of "Team Householder" currently sit on the Committee. Finally, five members in all or a third of the Committee voted for HB 6 yet we expect these same members to now turnaround and vote to repeal it.

Without a major shakeup in the Ohio House of Representatives, a repeal of HB 6 is questionable at best.