

# Repeal HB6 Testimony

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My name is Marissa Lazaroff. I am a native of Worthington and a proud buckeye now receiving a Master of Science in environmental policy at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability.

I am not only disappointed in our state and in you, but embarrassed that House Bill 6 passed and that it has not been repealed. Your negligence on this issue puts millions of lives at risk, while promoting corruption, bribery, fraud, and self-interest above the planet and the people you claim to serve. Even with the federal criminal process, you cannot begin to undo the wrongs that you have done to the people of Ohio and the global community without immediately and completely repealing House Bill 6.

This bill is not a clean energy bill as advertised; it has stripped our renewable energy and energy efficiency investment. This law has removed the solar-carve out of the Renewable Energy Standard Portfolio and ends the program altogether in 2026, allowing for the rise of fossil fuels in our state during this most critical time of combatting climate change, all while bailing out some of the dirtiest coal plants in the region.

HB6 eliminated utility efficiency programs that saved consumers money on their bills. Estimates show that there could be an average increase of \$7 per month in energy spending. From a basic understanding of environmental and energy justice, it is clear that this number will be felt disproportionately, with heavier burden on low-income and people of color. Energy burden can be calculated as the percentage of household income that is spent on monthly energy bills. Data from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy shows that Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus have made the top 25 of low-income energy burden for large cities in America. Specifically in Cincinnati, the average energy burden is 8.5% however high quartile of energy burden for low-income households and African-American households are 15.5% and 15.6% respectively<sup>i</sup>. The people of Ohio cannot afford this increase in energy spending, nor do they deserve to pay for bribery and an unnecessary bailout.

Mr. Governor and Mr. Speaker there are no excuses for harming the wallets and health of the people you have been elected to serve. There are no excuses for allowing the House Select Committee on Energy and Policy Oversight to not hold public hearings and effectively disband. There are no excuses for promoting climate change and racist policies. There are no excuses for not repealing House Bill 6. No excuses.

<sup>i</sup> Ariel Drehobl and Lauren Ross, "Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities: How Energy Efficiency Can Improve Low-Income and Underserved Communities | ACEEE" (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, April 2016), <https://www.aceee.org/research-report/u1602>.