

Before the passage of HB 6, I contacted my legislatures and the governor that this was a bad bill that offered a subsidy of \$1.5 billion bailout to Energy Harbor, (who along with FirstEnergy refused to open their books), the gutting of our state's renewable energy mandates and the elimination of energy efficiency goals. The legislative process was flawed that allowed this bill to happen and then came the announcement, after a criminal investigation, by US Attorney David DeVillers that HB6 was the product of "the largest bribery, money-laundering scheme ever perpetrated against the people in the state of Ohio."

The Ohio bribery probe in looking at the Nuclear plants owner Energy Harbor (formally FirstEnergy Solutions that was spun off and re-named after filing bankruptcy protection in 2018) noted that the company has completed the bulk of an \$800 million share repurchase program to return excess cash. The owners in their investor materials cited low debt levels, growing retail electricity business and the anticipation of visible cash flows from HB 6 subsidy payments. Energy Harbor's investors include Avenue Capital Group and Cove Key Management LP who supplied money to an entity former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder allegedly used to fund support for the bailout bill. HB 6 also charges electric customers to bail out the OVEC coal plants, Kryger Creek in Ohio and Clifty Creek in Indiana.

With Mr. Householder's arrest amid the bribery probe, Gov. Mike DeWine has called for the repeal of the subsidy, but again the legislative process is not allowing public participation. Ohio needs a comprehensive energy policy that focuses on energy efficiency, expanding clean energy development with the incorporation of new distributed energy resources (DER) and the support for communities that are affected by dirty energy generation.

I am a small business owner, engineer, and have a family farm operation here in Ohio. The energy efficiency programs supported our warehouse operation changes for lighting retrofits for a major energy reduction and heating upgrades with energy star listed equipment. Down on the farm we have installed a 25 kw solar array and have been approached by wind developers to lease ground for turbine placement as we have desirable wind speeds. Many farmers now enjoy wind lease payments in Ohio and some have noted that the turbines "are the best cow on the farm" for their economic returns.

The competitive market place for energy production continues to evolve with renewables now on par or lower the conventional sources. The International Energy Agency, IEA, notes that the world's transition to cleaner sources of energy is gaining speed as the coronavirus pandemic accelerates a shift in investment away from fossil fuels. Global energy demands are expected to fall 5% in 2020 and IEA expects renewables to provide 80% of the growth in global electricity demand through 2030.

I call on our legislature to immediately repeal HB 6 and open the process for public input for Ohio's energy future legislative bills!

Thank you to the Ohio Environmental Council, The Sierra Club, and others for facilitating this public input process for the repeal and replacement of HB 6.

Sincerely,



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