

## **For the Sierra Club 10-21-20 Virtual Hearing to Repeal HB 6**

### **Spoken Comments**

The most important reasons to repeal HB 6 are to restore Ohio's vision toward cleaner, safer energy and to restore the innovation and investment incentives stripped by this bill. Our lawmakers already have statistics backing up these reasons.

Our lawmakers also have the words of US attorney David DeVillers calling HB 6 "...likely the largest bribery, money laundering scheme ever perpetrated against the people of the state of Ohio."

What I can add to the discussion is my personal experience of dirty tricks that doomed the citizen referendum to repeal HB 6:

\*My husband and I went to the Worthington farmers' market to sign the petition. We were prepared to read the petition carefully before signing as we knew false petitions were being circulated (Dirty Trick #1).

\*The petition holder told us about being assaulted earlier that week, his phone taken and destroyed (Dirty Trick #2). This dirty trick can be corroborated by a search through Columbus Dispatch records.

\*Dirty Trick #3 was a pro-HB 6 flyer, mailed to our home, that seemed to be an attempt to scare us into locking our doors and calling a "hotline" if we happened to see a petitioner, depicted in the flyer as a shadowy man peering into our window.

These three dirty tricks are just the ones my husband and I personally experienced. Our legislature needs to disassociate our state from HB 6 right now.

## Full Comments

When we first heard about HB 6, we saw it as a step backward, taking away incentives for newer wind and solar energy sources while giving incentives, in the form of a bailout, for older, clearly unprofitable nuclear and coal plants, including a coal-fired plant that wasn't even in Ohio. We didn't think HB 6 would pass the legislature or get the governor's signature. It passed. The governor signed it. We were disappointed.

We were briefly encouraged by a referendum to repeal HB 6. That changed to disgust when we saw first-hand some of the dirty tricks that HB 6 proponents used to block the referendum. We've included those incidents in the spoken comments at the top of the page. More dirty tricks, and the referendum died. But three months ago, when the FBI arrested the former Ohio Speaker and uncovered what they alleged to be a \$61 million bribery scandal in connection with HB 6, it seemed Ohioans would have a second chance to be rid of this bad bill. Surely, any legislator who voted for HB 6 would quickly work to disconnect his or her name from this bill.

Yet this bill is still around. My husband and I sent letters to representatives on the House committee considering repeal of HB 6, asking them to repeal the bill now. We told the legislators that their stalling to repeal HB 6 is an embarrassment. It smacks of an attempt to stretch out the legal process until the repeal effort quietly dies yet again. We want our legislators to write a new bill that fairly addresses our Ohio energy needs. We want to bring back clean energy incentives, which were working. If parts of HB 6 are needed, such as a timed bailout for the nuclear energy industry, there can be open, free discussion of that issue. But polls show Ohioans want HB 6 replaced now.

Please act now!

Harold and Melanie Oyster, Gahanna

Following is the letter sent to the Dispatch last October. We didn't save the printed letter but it was the same or similar to this letter:

Gov. DeWine and the Ohio legislature need to distance themselves from the groups that told them HB6 was a good idea. A no-nonsense way to do this is to repeal HB6 now.

A repeal would tell the pro-HB6 groups that there isn't a place in our democracy for groups who use intimidating tactics. A pro-HB6 flyer arrived in our mail last week, showing a shadowy man in a ball cap, his arm raised to his visor, peering into a home. According to the flyer, the menacing window peeper would be someone wanting us to sign the anti-HB6 petition. The flyer directed us to report petitioners to their hotline.

Collecting signatures for a petition is legal. Why would voters be told to report legal activity? Unless it would be to intimidate collectors - and voters?

Call a Hotline? As in an emergency? The only emergency here is repealing HB6.