

To the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

My name is Taylor Christian, and I am the Field Operations Director for the Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition. The Land & Liberty Coalition is a project of the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum (OHCEF). OHCEF focuses primarily on state-level policies, while the Land & Liberty Coalition engages on local energy issues across the State of Ohio.

On this occasion, I am happy to offer my support to a state-level policy; that policy being Senate Bill 346.

House Bill 6 must be fully repealed, as it represents a massive abuse of power and public trust. It is corrupt, anti-free market, and ultimately unnecessary. By repealing House Bill 6, Senate Bill 346 will begin to rectify the situation and rebuild trust between Ohio's officials and its citizens.

Senate Bill 346 aims to destroy the product of corruption that is House Bill 6. Ohioans are understandably outraged that FirstEnergy Solutions, now known as Energy Harbor, was able to rip them off for over one billion dollars by purchasing influence from then-Speaker Larry Householder. Ohioans send legislators to Columbus to put in place policies that make Ohio a better place to live.

Not only is House Bill 6 the product of corruption, it is brazenly anti-free market. It is an example of government forces picking winners and losers. Rather than applauding sound financial decisions, House Bill 6 encourages bailouts. Instead of promoting competition of both cost and quality, House Bill 6 rewards utility executives. Senate Bill 346 will protect competition in a fair marketplace by pulling the thumb of government off the scale.

Finally, House Bill 6 is just plain unnecessary. Energy Harbor pushed deadlines that were ultimately bogus. Energy Harbor has refused to open its books to demonstrate a need for the money. As soon as House Bill 6 was passed, Energy Harbor began buying back its own stock. Senate Bill 346 will prevent money from hard-working Ohioans from being given to a company that would rather intimidate than sell superior goods and services.

In sum, I encourage you to support Senate Bill 346. It will repeal House Bill 6, a corrupt, anti-free market, and ultimately unnecessary bailout for Energy Harbor. I am unable to testify in person, so please take this letter as my written testimony in support of Senate Bill 346.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taylor Christian". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Taylor Christian
Field Operations Director
Ohio Land & Liberty Coalition