

INTERESTED PARTY TESTIMONY

Jamie N. Beier Grant

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

SB 346

December 1, 2020

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, my name is Jamie Beier Grant and I want to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony as it pertains to SB 346. As a constituent of Ohio's 2nd Senate District, I want to thank each of you for all of your hard work during this session, especially in these unprecedented times, on behalf of not only the 2nd Senate District but the entire state of Ohio.

I would further like to thank you for your efforts to assess the benefits, impacts and ramifications that SB 346 has on Ohio's energy policy of today and tomorrow. As the former economic development director for Ottawa County I spent countless hours trying to understand the complexities of energy policy in Ohio and how Ohio's two nuclear power plants played a critical role in the state's energy generation portfolio. As complex as the matter is, there is one thing that is quite simple - the economic impact that Davis Besse has on Ottawa County, northern Ohio, and the state of Ohio is undeniable and the loss of this facility would have devastating impacts on our community.

- 600+ direct plant jobs
- more than 1,000 additional jobs that support the safe and reliable operation of the plant in the form of contractors, local labor, etc.
- \$60million+ in annual payroll at the site alone
- Roughly 50% of the on-site workforce are military veteran's
- representation of the majority of Ohio's carbon free energy generation
- major contributor to Ohio's and PJM's reliable and resilient grid infrastructure

These are all things we have advocated for and represented for years and, while these numbers become repetitive to hear, they are real, and they matter. They matter to our economy. They matter to our schools. They matter to the financial health of Ottawa County. They matter to the businesses in Ohio that rely on a secure and resilient energy grid. And they matter to me. Not just because I worked to support legislative efforts that would keep this plant operational, but most importantly because my family, my children, and my livelihood depends on Davis Besse staying open. Every day my husband leaves for work before the sun rises. Most days he works 10+ hours in one shift. And there are times that require him to be at work for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for consecutive weeks and months. My husband came from very little. His family did not encourage him to seek higher education. When he graduated high school, he got a job at a local manufacturing operation sweeping floors. There he was encouraged to get his journeyman's card, which led to him getting his associate degree. Twelve years after graduating high school, he

finally earned his bachelor's degree. All while working full-time at this small, family owned business. Thirteen years ago, he applied for a job at Davis Besse as a Maintenance Mechanic - the most entry level job at the plant. He was one of very few to pass the entrance exam and was eventually hired. Davis Besse has been a place where my husband's education has been utilized to its fullest potential and he has grown in the company and now works as a Maintenance Supervisor and Containment Coordinator during refueling outages. My husband has sacrificed for his family. And every day he gets up before the sun rises and goes to work to be a part of a team of hundreds committed to running a safe, reliable nuclear power plant. I am proud of my husband. He deserves what he earns, and he deserves to continue utilizing his education, skills, and talents at Davis Besse.

From a HB 6 perspective, I offer you these thoughts. The bill that passed in 2019 has so many components to it and does not just serve to protect Ohio's nuclear power plants. If we repeal HB 6 without a replacement, we lose the many benefits to other energy policy goals that HB 6 addresses. HB 6 is good energy policy for Ohio. Could it be better? Absolutely. Do we repeal it because of a few bad actors? Absolutely not. Energy Harbor is a completely separate entity from FirstEnergy and FirstEnergy Solutions. It has its own board. It is an independent power producer not tied to the "line side" or distribution side of the business. HB 6 has an audit mechanism built-in to annually review whether credits and financial resources are needed by Energy Harbor - a responsible mechanism to hold all parties accountable. The controversy surrounding creating HB 6 legislation deserves to be adjudicated and it will be. That is a separate matter from the valuable energy policy components in this bill.

My request is that the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee not support SB 346. My request is that this General Assembly not act out of haste because of a few bad actors. My request is that this General Assembly take time to understand HB 6 and what valuable energy policy components are built into this bill. My request is that a few bad actors not be the foundational argument used to dismantle a major economic engine for Ottawa County, northern Ohio, and the state of Ohio. My request is that my family and our livelihood be valued and preserved. And my heartfelt thanks are given to you and your fellow legislators for the thoughtful and responsible consideration of Davis Besse and Ohio's energy future.

Thank you for your time and deliberation.

Sincerely,

Jamie Beier Grant, Constituent of Ohio's 2nd Senate District

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