

**Written Testimony of Chris Singerling, Director, of the
Ottawa County Improvement Corporation**

**Ohio Senate Committee on Energy and Public Utilities Hearing
Senate Bill 346**

December 1, 2020

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee – thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony as an interested party in the matter of Ohio’s energy independence and its importance to your constituents. This is not possible without the continued operation of the states two nuclear power plants.

My name is Chris Singerling and I am the Director of the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation. As a concerned citizen and representative of the organization that serves as our county’s economic development agency, I approach this issue from the perspective of keeping our state competitive in a global economy.

Ohio has witnessed quite a resurgence in the past decade and not by accident. Many of you have worked hard to create a business climate that has attracted companies from across the nation and around the globe. Those companies bring with them new jobs, which in turn means more people living in our great state. There are numerous benefits that come with such success, but there are also some consequences.

One such consequence is the burden these new businesses and people place on our state's energy grid. Our nuclear power plants contribute to a diverse energy portfolio and reduce the state's dependence upon any one fuel source. In fact, if the Davis-Besse and Perry plants were to close, it is estimated that we would need to start importing up to 15 percent of our energy from out-of-state providers to fill the gap left by the closure of these facilities. History and basic economic principles suggest that this scenario will cost more and almost certainly be passed on to the consumer. Therefore, it is in the best interest of all current and future Ohioans that we provide a steady, reliable, and zero-emissions power source for our homes and businesses.

Our two nuclear power plants currently account for 90 percent of Ohio's zero-carbon emission power generation. A recent study finds that the corresponding CO₂ emission offsets of the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power plants is almost 9.3 million metric tons annually. For perspective, that would be like adding nearly 2 million cars to our roads and increasing our current power sector CO₂ emissions by 11 percent statewide. The same study projects the annual emissions for the Clean Air Act's other criteria pollutants (sulfur dioxide, ground-level ozone, particulate matter 10 & 2.5) would also rise as a result of increased demand on our fossil fired power plants. This positive environmental impact is one more important reason we should keep our two largest producers of carbon-free energy operational.

Lastly, I have the privilege to speak to site selectors from across the country who represent companies all over the world. My goal is to help attract those

companies to Ohio, and ideally Ottawa County, by promoting our assets and what makes us better than our neighbors. One of those assets is a comprehensive, homegrown, affordable energy grid capable of satisfying their needs. They know what that means and is often considered when making decisions that impact their business, its future growth and employees. It is imperative a state our size that is on the rise maintains an “all of the above” energy policy that includes existing nuclear power to remain competitive both regionally and nationally.

As the elected leaders of our state, you frequently make decisions that impact all Ohioans. Ensuring we have access to a stable, reliable and diverse energy portfolio that includes the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power plants should be one of the easier ones you will make.

Thank you for your time and consideration.