

## Testimony

Donald A. Douglas

Ottawa County Commissioner

To Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and the Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony on Senate Bill 346 (SB 346) to repeal HB 6 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Ohio General Assembly.

A repeal of HB 6 would be detrimental for all Ohioans. While I and many others deplore any alleged illegal or unethical activity that may have occurred surrounding the passage of HB 6, we also believe that HB 6 represents good energy policy for Ohio for several reasons. Ohio's current energy policy recognizes the fact that our largest source of clean, reliable, carbon-free energy is nuclear power making important contributions to the energy grid while at the same time making significant contributions to Ohio families and businesses. We have been taught the benefits of "portfolio diversity" and repealing HB 6 abandons that "best practice".

First and foremost, Nuclear energy promotes in-state carbon-free energy generation resulting in thousands of Ohio jobs proven to significantly bolster Ohio's economy through both meaningful family incomes and lower monthly utility bills for Ohio homes and businesses. I applaud the state's vision to reduce emissions and retaining HB 6 certainly lends towards achieving that very goal. Ohio's two nuclear power facilities support 4,300 Ohio jobs either directly or indirectly, and are responsible for generating an estimated \$45 million spend with local vendors and suppliers as well as supporting businesses throughout the state. Combined, the Perry and Davis-Besse plants pay upwards of \$30 million in state and local taxes, benefiting our public schools, first responders, and other community services. Reducing or eliminating critical services such as these would be felt by many of your constituents for an indefinite period of time.

Equally important, maintaining HB 6 will help keep energy prices down for Ohioans by eliminating costly mandates that are currently factored into utility bills and by maintaining Ohio's energy diversity and energy independence. Without HB 6, the average residential electricity bill will increase and Ohio might be forced to import energy from out of state sources. Should Ohio's Nuclear fleet be forced to decommission and go offline prematurely,

the energy that would likely replace them would come from a less clean source, undermining our ability to lower our carbon footprint and limit air pollution.

Maintaining HB 6 is absolutely critical for our state's energy policy and to preserve Ohio's largest source of emissions-free energy—not to mention protecting thousands of local jobs, strengthening our communities and economy, as well as keeping energy costs for Ohio homes and businesses low.

Please consider my view on these issues, uphold HB 6 and vote against SB 346.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony as a voice for Ottawa County residents, public services and businesses.

Donald A. Douglas  
Ottawa County Commissioner.