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AFL-CIO

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION No. 245

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Interested Party Testimony

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Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
SB 346

December 1, 2020

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams, Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee Members.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our written testimony related to Senate Bill 346. As you are aware we are in the midst of a global pandemic. As of this past weekend Franklin County (Columbus) is a Level 4 Purple Emergency rating with severe exposure and spread along with all of our counties continuing to spike. We also thank each of you for all of your hard work, hearings and deliberations once again.

As Business Managers of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 245 and 1413 we represent more than 1050 electrical professionals across Northwest Ohio, including 190 Maintenance, Warehouse, Operations, Chemistry and Radiation Protection professionals and over 140 security officers who work full-time at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.

A few of the issues we must not forget are Ohio's nuclear power plants provide economic, environmental, and security benefits for the citizens throughout the state. The plants are a source of thousands of good jobs, affordable and reliable electricity, and a substantial portion of the entire state's economy. Nuclear energy is a safe reliable power source necessary for communities by providing electric power, and vital tax revenues that fund emergency response services, public schools and more. Nuclear power stations operate in the face of severe weather or disastrous circumstances that would otherwise leave families and communities without electricity. Just look back at the severe cold snap we had in the winter of 2018 and the Polar Vortex. Our nuclear plants didn't miss a beat and continued to power our homes and businesses.

Ohio's production of nuclear energy will also reduce reliance on imported energy from other states. If nuclear plants continue to close, costs to Ohioans will be higher than the cost to keep the plants open. Furthermore, approximately 360 union members at Davis Besse, hundreds of non-represented employees, and thousands of contractors assist with plant operations and improvement projects,

refueling, and maintenance. The loss of nuclear power plants will leave many of these Ohioans without good-high paying jobs.

If we do not retain House Bill 6, the economic losses will ripple throughout the regional and state economies. Our nuclear plants contribute millions of dollars to Ohio's economy each year from the business generated directly and indirectly. Additionally, the plants' spend millions of dollars a year with vendors and suppliers from all over the state – from Ashtabula to Worthington, from Toledo to Cincinnati. The state and the communities in which these plants and suppliers are located cannot afford to lose such a strong economic driver.

Ohio's nuclear plants account for approximately 90% of Ohio's carbon free clean energy and approximately 13% of the state's electricity overall. Other forms of clean power such as wind and solar simply cannot replace the amount of clean energy produced by nuclear power.

Ohio must take an "all of the above" approach in terms of energy. We need various energy sources in Ohio. However, the truth is nuclear energy produces abundant, reliable, and emissions-free power.

Clean and reliable energy from nuclear plants is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. House Bill 6 protects and enhances Ohio's economic well-being and the future of clean energy. We should not let go of these valuable assets that can and should operate for many years to come.

Finally, we've seen that some are still calling this bill a bailout. Nothing could be further from the truth. The thousands of employees working at these plants and the supply chain that support them are all Ohioans and your constituents.

As you are aware there were a number of hearings with House Bill 6 and testimony from many. It was vetted well. All of which made it that much more solid.

On behalf of all of the workers throughout Ohio we strongly support House Bill 6 because it will continue to promote clean energy, protect good paying jobs, reduce customer monthly bills and make electricity more affordable in Ohio. We ask that you please do not support Senate Bill 346 and thank you for your support in the past.

Respectfully,

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