



# VILLAGE OF OAK HARBOR

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(419) 898-5561  
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Quinton Babcock  
Mayor

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Administrator

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Ohio Senate  
Energy and Public Utilities Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio

November 29, 2020

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 interested party testimony on Senate Bill 346 (SB346) to Repeal HB 6 of the 133rd Ohio General Assembly. Undoubtedly, the allegations emerging surrounding former Speaker Larry Householder has placed the General Assembly in an undesirable position through no fault of the vast majority of its members. This is not a position that I envy and I wish each of you the gift of wisdom in the difficult decisions that you must make.

While House Bill 6 may not be perfect, Senate Bill 346 also brings me a great deal of concern. I am Mayor of the Village of Oak Harbor, which is a neighbor to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and shares a community of employees, local businesses, trade unions and more. Oak Harbor residents also live, work, and play on Lake Erie. Lake Erie is an environmental resource whose importance in our community is, perhaps, only rivaled by the quality of our air.

From this perspective, my message to you today is simple. A repeal today does not undo any past wrongdoings and it does not resolve pre-HB6 concerns with our state's energy policy. It merely casts the air quality and economic futures of communities across Ohio into uncertainty while raising the cost of Ohioans' energy bills.

In 2019, a majority of sitting legislators agreed that the anticipated outcomes of HB6, including ensuring the continued operation of Ohio's largest carbon-free energy generators, were positive and a step in the right direction for Ohio. I don't believe that there is any substantive reason to believe the anticipated outcomes of this bill are different today than when the bill passed sixteen months ago.

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***Our Vision . . . is to Enhance the Quality of Life through a Safe and Clean Community.  
Our Commitment . . . is to Provide Safe and Reliable Public Utilities at a Reasonable Cost.***



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This is not to say that HB6 was perfect. No legislation ever is. Considering the known and alleged acts committed by former Speaker Householder and his accomplices, we should examine this bill especially closely. Certainly, if there are specific issues with this bill, then I would encourage general assembly members to amend the bill accordingly. Returning Renewable Portfolio Standards to their Pre-HB 6 state, for example, is one item that I think deserves strong consideration. If this suggestion or others stand on their merits, then they should certainly be acted on by the assembly. It is true that, if there is soiled bathwater, we should throw it out. But harming Ohioans by repealing HB6 in its entirety is akin to tossing out the baby too.

For the Village of Oak Harbor, an ideal bill would retain key support for Ohio's carbon free power generation assets while also returning RPS to a pre-HB6 standing. Due to the fact that SB 346 would (1) remove support for Ohio's largest sources of carbon free energy, (2) raise energy rates on millions of Ohioans, (3) and cast the economic futures of tens of thousands of Ohioans into uncertainty, I do not believe that SB 346 is the correct venue to move Ohio's energy policy forward.

Your sincerely,

Quinton Babcock

Mayor

The Village of Oak Harbor

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