



Testimony of Matt Snider
Centrus Energy
Ohio House Bill 308
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Good morning Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Rogers and fellow committee members. Thank you for your work on this important legislation and for giving me the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Matt Snider, Enrichment Operations Plant Manager for Centrus Energy's American Centrifuge Plant, in Piketon, Ohio. Centrus has deep roots in this state. Many of our employees in Piketon represent the second or third generation of their family to have served in the Nation's uranium enrichment enterprise, going all the way back to the Manhattan Project. For myself, I am from southern Ohio, raised in Perry County. Having served in the United States Navy Nuclear Submarine Fleet, I was a direct user of enriched uranium that was produced at the site.

In October, the Piketon facility became the first new, U.S.-owned uranium enrichment plant to begin production in 70 years. Under a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy, we have already made our first delivery of a new, advanced nuclear fuel called High-Assay, Low-Enriched Uranium, or HALEU. HALEU is urgently needed to fuel the next generation of advanced reactors in the United States and around the world. Just three tablespoons of HALEU is enough to meet an average American's electricity use for 100 years. Think about that: a lifetime of clean electricity in just three tablespoons.

Even as Centrus embarks on HALEU production, our goal is to scale up the Ohio plant so that we can meet the full range of America's commercial and national security requirements for enriched uranium, including not only HALEU but also Low Enriched Uranium for existing reactors. That will require a public-private partnership, with robust government investment alongside private capital and long-term offtake contracts from reactor owners. Such an expansion would mobilize hundreds of union workers here in Ohio to build and operate the plant -- and support thousands of indirect jobs up and down our nationwide supply chain.

At Centrus, we want to help put Ohio at the forefront of the advanced nuclear industry and all of the jobs it can create. Earlier this year, we signed a memorandum of understanding with a leading advanced nuclear developer, Oklo, which is working to deploy two of its Aurora Powerhouses in southern Ohio, not far from the centrifuge plant. Centrus would produce the HALEU fuel for those reactors, which would provide electricity for our facility and many other customers throughout the area. We envision a future in which Ohio is leading the way in deploying the next generation of reactors and providing the fuel to power them.

Legislation like House Bill 308 plays a critical role in facilitating this leadership, driving investment decisions and creating new, high-wage nuclear energy jobs for Ohioans.

And the legislation just makes sense. If the goal is to generate more carbon-free energy, then it shouldn't matter whether that energy comes from the sun, or the wind, or the water, the heat from the earth, or the power of the atom, or some other clean source. What matters is that it is carbon free. There's no one energy source that will meet the entire need; we're going to need them all. It's not "nuclear versus renewables." It's "nuclear and renewables." Set up the right system of incentives, treat the various clean energy sources the same, and let the market take it from there.

Thank you.