

Ask your Ohio legislators to repeal HB 6 immediately to restore Ohio's progress towards clean, affordable electricity, and to rebuild trust in our democracy. **Please insist on a clean repeal of HB 6** before the end of the lame duck session this month.

To contact your legislators, use "Who represents me" at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/> Also contact the members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee to express your views on SB 346, the bipartisan repeal of HB 6 which they are debating (more detail below). Click on the picture of each Senator to reach their home page, where you can find their phone number. Constituent phone calls are unusual: they count. <http://ohiosenate.gov/committees/energy-and-public-utilities>

Background on HB 6: HB 6 became law after months of hot debate in 2019. It halted Ohio's renewable energy standards and the requirements that Ohio utilities help consumers improve energy efficiency. This summer the FBI charged then-House Speaker Larry Householder and four allies in a \$61 million dollar bribery and racketeering scheme through which Householder consolidated political power and passed HB 6 in 2019 to bail out First Energy's two Ohio nuclear plants. Two Householder accomplices have pleaded guilty.

HB 6 killed the state-mandated energy efficiency programs that helped Ohio customers save over \$7 billion on their electric bills between 2009 and 2019.* Instead, the law mandates a charge on all Ohio ratepayers to subsidize nuclear and coal-fired plants which can't compete against cheaper renewable and natural gas generation. Payments of these subsidies will begin in January: \$150 million a year to the two nuclear plants, and \$50 million a year to two coal plants.

HB 6 also ended the requirement that Ohio utilities increase renewable energy to 12.5% of their supply by 2027, and limited the requirement to 8.5% by 2019. This change throws Ohio in reverse, when other states are promoting renewable energy. Electricity from wind and solar is now significantly cheaper than nuclear and coal. Forcing Ohio ratepayers to prop up these expensive forms of generation harms Ohio consumers financially. In 2019, 82% of the electricity generated by Ohio utilities came from fossil fuels, endangering human health and exacerbating global warming.

<https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=OH>

Identical bipartisan bills to repeal HB6 and restore Ohio's previous efficiency and renewable energy progress have been introduced but are stalled in committee:

SB 346 has had five hearings in the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee. **HB 746** has had no public hearings in the House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight. The analysis by the nonpartisan Ohio Legislative Services Commission summarizes what HB 6 and how the repeal bills would restore previous policy:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=14437&format=pdf>

HB 798, introduced Dec. 1, would simply delay payment of the HB 6 nuclear subsidies for one year. It would not restore Ohio's renewable energy standards and energy efficiency programs.

*For more information on the way Ohio's energy efficiency portfolio standards reduce consumers' bills as well as stimulating employment, see the testimony by Reine Rambert of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to the Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee on Dec. 1:

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-committee-documents?id=GA133-SB-346>

Several people helping Green Umbrella's Faith Communities Go Green Advocacy team also testified on this bill: Ted Bergh, David Klebenau, Susan Carlson, and Ariel Miller on Nov. 10 and Girl Scout Troop 45239 on Dec. 1.

More about the bribery case: This fall FirstEnergy Corp fired its CEO Chuck Jones over a \$4 million payment to "an entity associated with an unnamed person who subsequently was hired by the state to regulate utilities."

<https://www.cleveland.com/open/2020/11/sam-randazzo-resigns-as-public-utilities-commission-of-ohio-chair.html> In mid-November the FBI also raided the home of Sam Randazzo, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, as part of the investigation of the bribery scandal, and he resigned. Raduzzo had previously worked as a lobbyist for First Energy Solutions, now named Energy Harbor, which owns the nuclear plants receiving the HB 6 bailout.

Gov. DeWine said this summer that HB 6 was passed by political corruption and must be repealed as a first step to restore trust in state government. The Ohio Legislature has failed to act (many legislators having received political contributions from First Energy). The Ohio Chamber of Commerce testified Dec. 1 to the Senate Energy Committee that - even though companies hold many different positions on energy policy - "our members have arrived at consensus on one thing: HB 6 should be repealed... because of the circumstances surrounding it."

