HB6 Talking Points

Summary:
House Bill 6, as introduced, proposes a new “Ohio Clean Air Program,” which would create a new energy tax to bail out Ohio’s two nuclear power plants—Davis Besse and Perry Station - as well as coal and natural gas power plants.

Despite claims that renewable energy projects would qualify to receive a portion of the new subsidies, the bill creates so many exclusions that wind and solar projects are effectively disqualified.

At the same time, the legislation proposes an effective repeal of Ohio’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS). These two policies have saved customers millions on their energy bills, reduced carbon emissions from the power sector significantly, and generated new jobs and new tax revenue for Ohio.

Primary provisions:
- Effectively eliminates Ohio’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS).
- Would charge all Ohio electric distribution utility customers a new monthly energy tax to fund a bailout that would generate approximately $300 million annually. Estimated breakdown: $125M/yr from residential; $130M/yr from commercial; $45 million/annually from industrial.
- Creates a new “Ohio Clean Air Program,” a new state program that would disburse energy tax revenue to qualified “clean air resources,” (nuclear) and “reduced emissions resources” (essentially, coal plants that have upgraded pollution controls). While the bill proponents claim that renewables would qualify for new subsidies, the definitions create so many exclusions for what kinds of renewables could qualify that essentially no renewable project existing now would qualify.
- Funds would be administered by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA), to which the bill proposes to add four members of the Ohio General Assembly to the authority which would be appointed by the majority and minority leaders in each chamber.
• Establishes maximum caps on monthly surcharges: $2.50 a month for residential customers, $20 for commercial customers, $250 a month for industrial customers, and $2,500 for very large users.

Impact of HB 6:

• **Would INCREASE Ohio’s carbon footprint** because the bill proposes to do away with Ohio’s RPS and EERS which together are reducing Ohio’s reliance on coal fired power plants. These policies are slated to reduce Ohio’s annual carbon pollution by about 10 million tons between 2017 and 2029—equivalent to avoiding a year’s worth of emissions from 1 million homes’ energy use.

• **Reduces investment in cost-saving energy efficiency.** Ohio’s EERS had delivered over $4.5 billion in energy savings to Ohioans’ utility bills since 2009. HB 6 proposes to dismantle this policy, leaving a lot of untapped energy efficiency potential on the table.

• Puts Ohio jobs at risk: more than [112,000 Ohioans](#) are employed in the clean energy sector. The 80,000 Ohioans employed in the energy efficiency sector stand to be impacted the most.

• **Impacts Ohioans’ health:** Due to rollback of Ohio’s RPS and EERS, the legislation would **forgo the projected health benefits** that these standards provide - prevention of over 44,000 asthma attacks, 2,400 asthma-related emergency room visits, 4,400 heart attacks and over 2,800 premature deaths attributable to coal-plant pollution.