



Lake County, Ohio

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**JERRY C. CIRINO
JOHN R. HAMERCHECK
RON YOUNG**

Main Office: 440-350-2745



**OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

**MARK W. STAHL
MARK E. COPPELER
DONALD A. DOUGLAS**

Main Office: 419-734-6710

August 19, 2020

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Larry Obhof, President
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Robert Cupp, Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine, President Obhof and Speaker Cupp,

The purpose of this letter is to convey the concerns of our Boards of Commissioners and fellow citizens and officials of Lake and Ottawa Counties regarding any legislative proposals to repeal House Bill 6 "HB 6" without a thoroughly vetted and workable replacement. While we detest any alleged illegal or unethical activity that may have occurred before, during, or after the enactment of the legislation, we certainly believed the policy outcomes were of benefit not only to Lake and Ottawa Counties, but also to all Ohioans.

About a year ago our communities celebrated those policy impacts together which included lower monthly electric bills for all Ohioans, cleaner air to breathe for all Ohioans, saving several thousand direct and indirect jobs in Northeast and Northwest Ohio, protecting our schools and strengthening our safety services.

We contend that no piece of federal, state, or local legislation is perfect, and most can be improved, enhanced, or adjusted to address necessary changes. Simply throwing the policy out with the political bathwater would be catastrophic to Ohio's energy portfolio and to our local economies. The fact remains, if the nuclear fleet in Ohio is closed, nearly 90% of Ohio's zero-carbon electric power generation and over 25% of Ohio's entire electric energy portfolio will be lost and will not come back. Ohio will be an importer of electric power and the oil and gas producers will move quickly to gain market share that was once zero carbon generation.

The end result will be thousands of jobs lost, our air will be less clean, and all Ohioans' electric bills will dramatically increase, once again.

We were grateful for your respective leadership and support of House Bill 6 last year and are once again asking for your consideration to reform and replace the legislation with a new bill that will ensure the continued operation of the two nuclear plants, the generation of clean energy and avoidance of a severe economic impact on our communities. Our communities in Lake and Ottawa Counties were not part of any alleged wrongdoing. Our intentions were always to protect our communities. Please consider their interests as well when making your decision on whether to proceed in an expedient manner or perhaps, to address current criticisms of the previous process, to thoroughly review and create an even better clean energy policy for Ohio that will stand the test of time. As elected officials we stand ready to work with the legislature toward this end.

Sincerely,



Jerry C. Cirino
Lake County Board of Commissioners



Mark W. Stahl
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners



John R. Hamercheck
Lake County Board of Commissioners



Mark E. Coppeler
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners



Ron Young
Lake County Board of Commissioners



Donald A. Douglas
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners