

Talking points on need to Repeal House Bill 6

Hashtag: #RepealHB6

The only acceptable path forward is to immediately and completely repeal House Bill 6 (HB 6).

- As House Bill 6 was jammed through the House of Representatives by indicted former Speaker Larry Householder, it was long suspected there was foul play involved.
- We are pleased to see that the federal criminal process is doing its job and holding these bad actors accountable for corrupting the legislative process for personal gain.
- While multiple bills to repeal House Bill 6 have been introduced in the House of Representatives, the House Select Committee on Energy Policy and Oversight held no public hearings and have announced they will not meet again until further notice. They have taken action to repeal House Bill 6.
- HB 6 passed by only one vote in the House even with \$61 million in bribes
- Ohioans have called on newly elected House Speaker Bob Cupp to restore faith and confidence in the General Assembly by righting this wrong and repealing House Bill 6, but the calls have fallen on deaf ears.
- Ohio lawmakers need to demonstrate that the Statehouse is not for sale and repeal House Bill 6 now. No excuses.

Everything we knew about HB 6 was a lie...

- FirstEnergy lied **about needing a bailout** in the first place
 - If a company can pay out \$61 million in bribes and provide their investors with an estimated \$800 million stock buyback, they cannot justify a bailout on the backs of hardworking Ohioans
 - FirstEnergy refused to open their books for legislators during last year's debate. They just wanted people to "take their word for it," without verifying the need.

- They lied **about where the money would go**
 - Even with more than \$1.5 billion being funneled from consumers to bailout FirstEnergy Solutions, the legislation contained no requirement that the plants would stay open or that employees would be protected. FirstEnergy Solutions also left the door open that they may be back with hands out yet again.
 - The money was clearly reserved for stock buybacks for their investors and propping up their \$61 million in bribes.

- They lied **about the cost savings to consumers**
 - HB 6 eliminated utility efficiency programs that saved consumers money on their bills. Based on filings with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, utilities report savings of \$2.65 for every dollar invested. That means average monthly savings of \$7.71 per customer, resulting in customers saving more than \$7 billion statewide from assorted utilities since 2009.
 - Dollars would be taken from the pockets of Ohio consumers and used to reward a company being investigated for bribery

- They lied **about why they voted for the bill**
 - HB 6 is NOT a clean energy bill
 - It kills renewable energy and energy efficiency investment in Ohio
 - Legislators who voted to bailout some of the region's dirtiest coal plants were not interested in reducing carbon emissions with their vote
 - Clearly, they never supported an "all of the above" energy strategy

- They lied **about saving Ohio jobs**
 - They claim HB 6 will save 4,000 nuclear power plant jobs
 - Yet, prior to COVID-19, over 114,000 Ohioans work in clean energy.

- What jobs are they fighting for?
- House Bill 6 did not include provisions guaranteeing worker protections

Conclusion: HB 6 is not good public policy. But it was the best policy FirstEnergy could buy.

HB 6 was passed on the backs of hard-working Ohioans - costing consumers more than \$1.5 billion, costing Ohioans jobs, and all the while stripping away efficiency and clean energy programs that had the potential to continue to improve Ohio's environment...all of this just to benefit First Energy, now known as Energy Harbor, and its shareholders.

- We need to put those dollars back into the pockets of hardworking Ohioans and stop lining the pockets of wealthy utility executives and big Wall Street investors.
- Ohioans were overwhelmingly opposed to HB 6 and yet it passed through the legislature (by a single vote) and was signed by the Governor
- Ohioans were denied their opportunity to put HB 6 on the ballot due to the well-funded dirty tactics of these corrupt individuals, companies and organizations.

For far too long, Ohio's energy policies have been focused on benefiting the utilities and not the consumers.

- They have put profits over people – every single time – executing carefully crafted pay-to-play scenarios while making puppets out of policy makers.
- Repealing HB 6 is a good first step in standing up for real, everyday Ohioans against corrupt Big Utilities.

We look forward to working with Ohio's policy leaders to right this wrong by immediately and completely repealing HB 6.