



Preserving and protecting our precious freshwater

January 25, 2026

TO: Ohio Senate Energy Committee

SUBJ: SB294 Opponent Testimony

Please enter this comment in opposition of SB 294. We do not understand the reason for this legislation to be introduced. What warrants this proposed legislation? The federal government has a definition for renewable energy. We are losing faith and trust in our elected representatives as it continues to appear there is favoritism for fossil fuels, even in the days of climate change, with the known legacy and pollution costs that the industry has wreaked that is accumulating and costing us in our health and future economic prosperity.

Please enter into the record that it is not fair that opponent testimony is required by 10 am on Monday for legislation that is introduced the Friday before. It appears as another way to discourage the knowledge and participation for Ohioans who have a right to know and who would want to be involved

Also, we assert that the Chair of this committee, who has vested interests in the oil and gas industry, should recuse himself from the committee's deliberations when legislation is being considered that would benefit the fossil fuel industry (<https://signalcleveland.org/ohio-senator-brian-chavez-failed-to-disclose-ties-to-his-natural-gas-companies-complaint-says/>).

It is becoming increasingly apparent that there is no long-term consideration of the economic and environmental future for Ohio when fossil fuels are incentivized over clean, renewable energy. There is tremendous future cost to Ohio's discouragement of renewable energy that continues to build an uneven playing field for a promising industry that would provide jobs and cost-effective energy choices for Ohioans. For instance, Texas is now breathing a sign of relief as an arctic blast threatens the grid while renewables are providing clean energy when it is needed the most. Clean energy is just as reliable as any other energy source now that battery storage is feasible and cost effective.

Is this legislation introduced to increase the market and incentives for fracking and nuclear for data centers? That also does not make sense – see this report, “Scientists Say Clean Energy-Powered Data Centers Could Save Trillions in Climate, Health Costs”

“In a future with immense data center growth, ratepayers shouldn’t be forced to subsidize Big Tech’s profits at the expense of their own health, climate, and pocketbooks,” said a Union of Concerned Scientists analyst.

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/clean-energy-data-centers>

SB294 caters to the fossil fuel and nascent and unproven small modular nuclear reactor technology that is yet to be proven safe and cost effective. More and more people are finding out that Ohio has a double standard that favors fossil fuels and nuclear over the better choice we have to promote true renewable energy without the burden of toxic, radioactive waste generation.



Reference this article, “**What a fracking-waste dispute says about Ohio’s energy double standard.** Ohio is letting the oil and gas industry put more toxic waste underground despite community concerns — even as the state defers to local opponents of clean energy.”
https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/fossil-fuels/fracking-waste-dispute-ohio-double-standard?utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8UZ-EsK6121cPuodFiisbhPCihlk4waZ2nYkfjtgQQPeEuIZcru_cADJg1zoOCkC74TJKTmiND9zh0tgl9Ax7SZCXUqGktL_Bijlt0TAnKF05ZUTY&_hsmi=398520701&utm_content=398520701&utm_source=hs_email

If you are not noticing the harms of the fracking industry in Ohio, perhaps you could look to Texas to see how Ohio pays the price to provide the solution to the industry’s problem of its toxic, radioactive waste disposal. Do you plan to keep having the taxpayer pay the industry’s costs at our expense because of poor regulation and oversight such as has already happened wherever fracking takes place and the LLC’s take the profits while leaving taxpayers with the costs, such as with Austin Masters (<https://www.wtrf.com/news/ohio-judge-fines-austin-master-services-over-34-million-for-toxic-waste-violations-that-threatened-the-ohio-river-local-water-system/>). The LLC’s will just fold and we will pay. Reference this recent article from Texas — which will likely be the case in Ohio: “Protecting water from pollution is one of the Railroad Commission’s primary mandates. But T-Bar Ranch shows how costly, complicated and time-consuming it can be to clean up groundwater pollution left by oil companies. The bankruptcy process allowed Heritage Standard to shed troublesome assets. But the pollution persists. This is one of more than 500 active cases of groundwater contamination attributed to oil and gas activities, going back decades, that the Railroad Commission oversees.”
https://insideclimatenews.org/news/18012026/west-texas-oil-cleanup-drags-on/?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=caecbe4769-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_01_24_11_11&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-caecbe4769-328196607

SB294 almost appears to also be a cartel-like plot to kill clean energy in the state by replacing true renewable energy with fossil fuel incentives:

Michigan AG Nessel sues big oil over ‘cartel’-like plot to kill clean energy

https://bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/michigan-ag-nessel-sues-big-oil-over-cartel-like-plot-to-kill-clean-energy/?utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9eLTAXWGxredjAM7Ky_SOA1_Zc8rl5y-NeuQhFKvqYhSigiYp0pJvmk8B2tMNka0XN8duBrmPq3jQaLMWMKXrIuiGprFG5jsLD9F4fD1cf7XKB3PnM&_hsmi=400055540&utm_content=400055540&utm_source=hs_email

Nuclear power cannot be classified as renewable and given any associated advantages without an investigation into the nuclear industry’s serious problems already existing in Ohio without resolution - reference the recent Facebook posts by Jeff Walburn, copied below, as well as the Fallout series by Duane Pohlman of Local 12:

<https://local12.com/news/investigates/fallout-investigation-fallout-contamination-cancer-death-duane-pohlman-portsmouth-gaseous-diffusion-plant-ports-government-owned-uranium-enrichment-health-threat-victims>

(<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010867819207>)



"Everybody locally think about your Brothers and Sisters at the Paducah Plant. Paul, Massey, Comer and McConnell sold out cheap to get RECA by selling their votes to the Big Beautiful Bill. I'm here to tell you they knew what happened at the Piketon A-plant and have for some time. Reca is a Manhattan Project benefit and a "Pig in a Poke" for the damage they really have done at Piketon to the workers and now the community. Husted and Taylor could work from home in their Pajamas for all they've done. Brown and Vance are no Better. IMO. It's like "I can get you some work but we gotta kill some of your kids and bypass safety" and you know what some will say OK! IMO The fraud in Minnesota would pale in comparison to what has been and is being done to "The "Contaminated Bastards of The State of Ohio!" Elon didn't find that fraud nor did the Feds. A simple man picked it out. and reported it. But people got upset! Why here are we not upset? As I have said "Nuts" to them. oh yeah thanks for speaking up for us at Piketon and Portsmouth Kentucky Delegation. Don't want you behind my back afraid what you might do IMO. Have you forgotten how to act when you are pissed off? Why are you not mad? They owe us the Truth and answers and no one is even mad enough to confront them. Will you let them kill your kids poison the land and water and poison the very homes you live in and not assemble to go on record or say nothing. This at the A-plant is the biggest Fraud since the "Teapot Dome Scandal" and all the elected officials are in on it IMO.

Two women that it is important to know about concerning the A-Plant and the 56 Homes contaminated around the plant in the community. Anne Marie White "Environmental Manager "One" for DOE ", Senate Confirmed, and Jill Hruby head of the NNSA for DOE also Senate Confirmed. White an independent contractor hired by DOE to clean it up ,was fired by one man Paul Dabbar UnderSecretary of Science for DOE. She had dug too deeply into the Zhan's Corner School debacle and was putting the spotlight on DOE whose motto was "No bad news". She was putting HALEU at risk. Now about Paul Dabbar. He was a former Submariner for the US Navy but, 2 unique facts about Dabbar is he had also been an Investment Banker for JP Morgan and had worked on the Privatization of Nuclear for USEC/ Centrus with Daniel Poneman. So 2 out of three principals of the HALEU program had conflict of interest relationships with Dabbar. The third principal of HALEU is Bill Gates. I personally contacted the IG of DOE. Terri L Donaldson. She was an Environmental Lawyer placed by President Trump. Donaldson said to be a maverick was the first woman IG ever that DOE hired three and a half months before the Anne Marie White firing. Wouldn't you think that with the goings on at the A-Plant that the IG of DOE might have been the least suspicious? No investigation was forthcoming. White is to have said DOE went crazy when they found out about Zahns. NO INVESTIGATION FORTHCOMING By the IG ON SENATE CONFIRMED WHITE'S FIRING BY ONE MAN , DABBAR. Now and most importantly Jill Hruby, head of the NNSA for DOE. Jill Hruby was placed in her job by Senate Confirmation. She had retired as the manager of Los Alamos after a 30yr tenure there. She was there at Los Alamos during the Wen Ho Lee fiasco under Secretary Bill Richardson and survived. My friends when Jill Hruby gave her testimony on HALEU it had only been 25 short years from Jan 2000. Now we're having problems at DOE Ports but no Investigation Why? Hruby was Senate Confirmed to head the NNSA for DOE. Any person who would review her resume' would know her to be an esteemed member of DOE and an expert in our Nuclear Arsenal, Anti terror, and Non Proliferation. She was an expert at her job and while only holding a Masters in Nuclear engineering was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by her Alma Mater for her expertise in her field. Jill Hruby was DOGED by Elon Musk one man.. Her problem SHE HAD STATED PUBLICLY THAT THE SMR'S (small modular reactors) WERE TERRORIST TARGETS!



FURTHER, THAT THE 20 % ASSAY THAT HALEU WAS SPINNING UP WAS HEU (Highly enriched uranium). Why is no one listening to her now?

Please fact check me. I braced the NRC at the Piketon meetings at the Endeavor Center at Ports in the last year about the same subject and they attacked me. I called their IG for the NRC and he turned me over to the same people I reported. They called me from the Chicago Region and I was ordered to report to Chicago at my own expense with all my documents and to bring a Lawyer . I refused and they went silent. The NRC is not licensed to handle HEU. Don't tell me I should contact someone. I have just personally Written the White House and Kash Patel of the FBI. I got the green confirmation card that it was received but no contact or letter of acknowledgment. I have contacted our Ohio Delegation and they know only what DOE tells them. Husted and Taylor are just "coats in a chair". You all know what Chick has done. They have threatened him and his Families lives and he lives in a contaminated house. I have just spent the better part of 2 weeks talking to Congressman Tim Burchett's office in Washington. He is on the Congressional Committee for Governmental Affairs. They sent me to the committee which I will write Monday. Comer is the Chair and he Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell stood quiet with Massey while Paducah got RECA and Ports did not. Personally with them doing open air demolition RECA would be a license to kill for DOE but they can't admit Pike and Scioto County is contaminated because that throws a wrench into the plans they have for us. By the way Jill Hruby was replaced by a Navy Nuclear officer that was a graduate of the Wharton School of Business Trump's Alma-mater. Not saying that there is a connection but Jill Hruby was highly qualified and her comments to the Congress holds weight. The first thing Hruby's replacement said is perhaps we DOGED too deeply in the NNSA. Anyone who knows anything knows that Hawley Bill on RECA was to keep the heat off of Hawley from Just Moms that had the political clout to take him out of office. IMO Paducah wasn't part of the Manhattan project and had opposition in Paul, Comer and especially McConnell and Massey to the Big Beautiful Bill. Ports and the surrounding community deserve remuneration far more than RECA which would have been a "Pig in a Poke "for us IMO. We told Vice President Vance before he was Senator after and before he became Vice President along with President Trump, and head of the FBI. when questioned why we didn't get RECA Hawley said "You just didn't try hard enough" My answer to him and Washington is "Nuts" just like Bastogne we are the "Contaminated Bastards of The State of Ohio" and we do not surrender. Try seeing what a pissed off Appalachian can do given the chance to speak. And another thing Vice President Vance just cause you have family from Appalachia doesn't make you a Hillbilly. You turned your back on your family , your State and the real Appalachians that have taken it in the teeth since the beginning. That can't be forgiven. Yeah Me and Chick have the Documents but we ain't blow'in about it. Not claiming to have "DONE IT ALL" just like at Piketon A-Plant "All gave some, some gave all!" Just get us the hearing our documents speak loudly, just fact! Share the "Hell" out of this!"

Before any incentives are given to the nuclear industry in Ohio, the industry should be made to pay to clean up its legacy of toxicity that it has already left us.

Before SB294 goes any further, the question must be asked, who is going to be responsible for the cumulative impacts of the toxic, radioactive waste from fracking and nuclear development in Ohio? Will Ohio continue to be the waste generator and dump site for these highly unregulated



and abnormally dangerous industries? What will the future damages reveal about the decisions being made today and those who are making them?

SB294 will increase our costs for energy in the future and impact our health and environment detrimentally. The truth is coming out. People are losing trust in their own government. It is increasingly apparent that some Ohio elected officials have a double standard and appear to cater to outside industry interests for short-term revenue and their own vested interests and campaign contributions over their constituents' health and prosperity. What side of Ohio's history will you be on when promoting fracking and nuclear instead of advancing the clean energy technologies and industries of tomorrow that we need ensure Ohio's future prosperity and desirability as a place to live and work?



Please enter this comment in opposition of SB 294. We do not understand the reason for this legislation to be introduced. What warrants this proposed legislation? The federal government has a definition for renewable energy. We are losing faith and trust in our elected representatives as it continues to appear there is favoritism for fossil fuels, even in the days of climate change, with the known legacy and pollution costs that the industry has wreaked that is accumulating and costing us in our health and future economic prosperity.

Please enter into the record that it is not fair that opponent testimony is required by 10 am on Monday for legislation that is introduced the Friday before. It appears as another way to discourage the knowledge and participation for Ohioans who have a right to know and who would want to be involved

Also, we assert that the Chair of this committee, who has vested interests in the oil and gas industry, should recuse himself from the committee's deliberations when legislation is being considered that would benefit the fossil fuel industry (<https://signalcleveland.org/ohio-senator-brian-chavez-failed-to-disclose-ties-to-his-natural-gas-companies-complaint-says/>).

It is becoming increasingly apparent that there is no long-term consideration of the economic and environmental future for Ohio when fossil fuels are incentivized over clean, renewable energy. There is tremendous future cost to Ohio's discouragement of renewable energy that continues to build an uneven playing field for a promising industry that would provide jobs and cost-effective energy choices for Ohioans. For instance, Texas is now breathing a sign of relief as an arctic blast threatens the grid while renewables are providing clean energy when it is needed the most. Clean energy is just as reliable as any other energy source now that battery storage is feasible and cost effective.

Is this legislation introduced to increase the market and incentives for fracking and nuclear for data centers? That also does not make sense – see this report, “Scientists Say Clean Energy-Powered Data Centers Could Save Trillions in Climate, Health Costs”

“In a future with immense data center growth, ratepayers shouldn’t be forced to subsidize Big Tech’s profits at the expense of their own health, climate, and pocketbooks,” said a Union of Concerned Scientists analyst.

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/clean-energy-data-centers>

SB294 is another obvious attempt to cater to the fossil fuel and nascent and unproven small modular nuclear reactor technology that is yet to be proven safe and cost effective. More and more people are finding out that Ohio has a double standard that favors fossil fuels and nuclear over the better choice we have to promote true renewable energy without the burden of toxic, radioactive waste generation. See this article, **“What a fracking-waste dispute says about Ohio’s energy double standard.** Ohio is letting the oil and gas industry put more toxic waste



April 20, 2020

Goldman Sachs
200 West Street
New York, NY 10282

ATTN: Mr. David Solomon

SUBJ: Investor Information for Shareholders Meeting 4/30/2020

Dear Mr. Solomon,

For reasons described below, we ask that West Street Energy Partners, LP private equity fund be instructed to inform shareholders of the extremely risky nature of the Mountaineer NGL Storage Project and consider terminating its development agreement with Mountaineer NGL Storage, LLC.

As you may be aware, the feasibility of the Mountaineer Storage Project is contingent on the construction of a proposed ethylene cracker plant in Belmont County, Ohio, which is supported by PTT Global Chemical and Daelim Chemical. However, in recent weeks a consensus has emerged among both rating agencies (Moody's and Fitch Ratings) and industry analysts (IHS Markit and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis) that under foreseeable market conditions the cracker plant is too risky a proposition to go forward.

The reasons for this shared conclusion pre-date the recent Saudi/Russian dispute over oil production and the COVID-19 crisis, although those events exacerbate the reasons and make them apparent to all.

- The price of polyethylene, the proposed cracker's principal product, was plunging to record lows before the recent crises and has plunged further since.
- The market for polyethylene has, for the first time in history, entered a period of sustained oversupply due to a massive expansion of capacity along the Gulf Coast and in China.
- Competition in the plastics market is growing as major oil companies try to compensate for stagnant growth in fuel markets by competing more aggressively in petrochemicals.
- Growth in the demand for plastics is expected to slow as federal, state, and local governments adopt policies to counteract climate change and to reduce plastics pollution, such as bans on single-use plastics like those recently imposed in China and enacted by many state and local governments in the US.
- There is widespread uncertainty about how soon economic recovery will begin, how robust it will be, and the long term effect on the plastics and petrochemical markets.



The degree to which the financial viability of the Mountaineer storage facility is dependent on the construction of the PTTGC cracker and the plastics market was expressed most powerfully by David Hooker, president of Energy Storage Ventures and Mountaineer Storage, LLC. Hooker who said this in an April 2019 Associated Press story.

"To me, the key is PTT Global," Hooker said, adding that he "can't imagine" the plant operating without ethane storage."

The AP story then quoted another industry expert on the financial importance of the PTTGC cracker to storage projects in the region.

"Appalachia Development Group's (Steve) Hedrick agrees with Hooker's assessment. Without the PTT-Daelim partnership or another regional petrochemical plant, Hedrick said his storage facility project probably won't be viable. 'The two go hand in glove,' Hedrick said. 'We need both at the same time. Without customers, it's awfully hard to make a business case.'"

In short, any financial justification that may have once existed has now evaporated for the proposed cracker plant and for the associated storage facility, with which West Street Energy Partners has a development agreement. Therefore, we ask in the interest of your shareholders that you advise them of the risks associated with the project and consider terminating the agreement.

We also ask this of you as residents of the Ohio Valley, who face the prospect of huge greenhouse gas emissions as well as increases in air and water pollution that will have serious effects on our health and that of our children if the cracker and storage facility are built. Goldman-Sachs won widespread acclaim in 2019 when it issued its "Environmental Policy Framework", and announced it would no longer underwrite coal projects and would conduct "enhanced due diligence" for projects involving "new unconventional oil & gas and hydraulic fracturing".

In the spirit of the Goldman-Sachs Environmental Policy Framework and in light of the unfeasibility of the Mountaineer Storage project, please protect your shareholders and residents of the Ohio Valley by withdrawing from this economically unjustified and destructive project.

Sincerely,

Leatra Harper
Managing Director
FreshWater Accountability Project

Vivian Stockman
Executive Director
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
www.ohvec.org

Rachael Hood

Brook Lenker
Executive Director
FracTracker Alliance
www.fractrackeralliance.org

Bev Reed
Community Advocate
Concerned Ohio River Residents
www.nocrackerplantov.com



Students for Energy Justice
Oberlin College