

October 16, 2020

The Honorable Bob Cupp
Ohio Speaker of the House
77 S. High St., FI 14
Columbus, OH 43215



Dear Speaker Cupp,

Many of Ohio's health professionals are concerned about the detrimental impact Ohio House Bill 6 has on Ohio's transition to a clean and renewable energy economy, ultimately harming our public health by increasing air pollution and contributing to climate change. During the current respiratory pandemic, we see now that air pollution worsens COVID-19 outcomes, which underscores the importance of safeguarding cleaner air for all Ohioans, now and in the future.

[Ohio Clinicians for Climate Action](#)¹ (OCCA), an organization whose mission is to advocate for climate change solutions that protect the health of our patients and communities, is concerned that bailing out coal-fired power plants while undoing clean energy standards that protect clean air will be especially detrimental to communities surrounding these power plants. Coal plants, like [Clifty Creek](#)² and [Kyger Creek](#)³, emit fine particulate matter and other air pollutants, causing health harms for people working and living nearby. In fact, the amount of combined carbon dioxide released by these two coal plants annually is over 11.3 million tons causing poor air quality, forever changing the health of our most vulnerable populations, infants and children, in these towns and surrounding areas.

A [study](#)⁴ conducted in California showed that closing eight coal and oil power plants in California resulted in a 20% decrease in preterm birth for mothers living within 10km of these plants, improving infant mortality rates. Another [study](#)⁵ out of Boston showed that consistent, low-level exposure to fine particulate matter and black carbon over a child's lifetime is linked to early childhood asthma. As physicians, we want to ensure our young patients have the best possible start to life. Bailing out polluting coal plants and rolling back renewable energy standards is not the answer.

The health and climate benefits to Ohio's existing renewable energy standards are projected to [prevent](#)⁶ over 44,000 asthma attacks, 4,400 heart attacks, and over 2,800 premature deaths in Ohio by the year 2030. By rolling back or eliminating the renewable energy standards, we will not only see an uptick in patient maladies, but we will also experience rising healthcare costs, in part, due to [chronic illnesses](#)⁷ [impacted by polluted air](#)⁸, further burdening our lower-income patients.

OCCA and our members who have signed below call on the Ohio legislature to repeal this health-harming House Bill 6 and turn its attention to investing in a clean energy future for the wellbeing of all Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Anna Cifranic, MS

CC: Minority Leader Emila Sykes

Rep. Jim Hoops, Chairman, House Select Committee on Energy Policy & Oversight

Rep. David Leland, Ranking Member, House Select Committee on Energy Policy & Oversight

¹ <https://ohcliniciansforclimateaction.org/about-us/>

² [https://www.tollfromcoal.org/#/map/\(title:983/detail:983/map:983/IN\)](https://www.tollfromcoal.org/#/map/(title:983/detail:983/map:983/IN))

³ [https://www.tollfromcoal.org/#/map/\(title:2876/detail:2876/map:2876/OH\)](https://www.tollfromcoal.org/#/map/(title:2876/detail:2876/map:2876/OH))

⁴ <https://academic.oup.com/aje/article/187/8/1586/4996680>

⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4636293/>

⁶ <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/ohio-clean-energy-standards-benefits-report.pdf>

⁷ <https://khn.org/news/health-care-costs/>

⁸ https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/air_pollution.htm

Sara Scott, MD
Family and Community Medicine

John E. Hohmann, MD
Anesthesiology, Clinical Asst. Prof. (Ret.)

Peggy Berry, PhD, MSN, RN, COHN-S, CLE,
PLNC
Occupational and Environmental Health

Anita Somani, MD
Obstetrics-Gynecology

William Hardie, MD
Pediatrics

Lauren Koch, MA, MENR

Katherine Dobbs, MD
Pediatric Infectious Disease

Christopher Siracusa, MD
Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine

Gary Lewis McPhail, MD
Pediatrics

Jason C. Woods, Ph.D
Pulmonary Medicine

Austin Oslock, Medical Student, MPH
Pediatrics
The Ohio State University

Lucinda Cave, MSN, RN, NPD-BC
Nursing Professional Development

Elizabeth Kramer, MD
Pediatric Pulmonology

Cassie Shipp, MD
Pediatric Pulmonology

Ariunaa Bayanjargal
MD-Ph.D Candidate

John Brewington, MD
Pediatric Pulmonology

Ean Bett, MD
Family Medicine

Cherie A Torres-Silva, MD, MPH, MEd
Pediatric Pulmonology

John Pascoe, MD

Hemant Sawnani, MD
Pulmonology

Gregory Lam, MD
Cardiology

Aparna Bole, MD
Pediatrics

Leslie Dingeldein, MD, FAAP
Pediatric Emergency Medicine

Gaurab Basu, MD, MPH
Internal Medicine

Dedra Whitfield, LPN

Edward Maibach, MPH, Ph.D
Public Health

Rahul Tendulkar, MD
Radiation Oncology

Evan Brockman, MD, MPH
Pediatrics

Samantha Ahdoot, MD
Pediatrics

