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GEO statement on House Bill 6

The passage of House Bill 6 was yet another example of Ohio's policy-makers failing to ensure a clean and prosperous energy future for the state and for their constituents. House Bill 6 provides funding to bail out FirstEnergy's aging and unsustainable nuclear plants with the cost burden distributed to ratepayers throughout the state. Whereas other states have chosen to subsidize their nuclear power plants, it has not been at the expense of their renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

HB 6 effectively ends Ohio programs designed to encourage clean energy development and the significant economic benefits that accompany it. It has been shown that jobs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors have grown at a faster rate than other industries in Ohio and multiple polls show that the clear majority of Ohioans across the ideological spectrum favor clean energy. Over 60 Ohio companies signed a letter opposing House Bill 6 and every major newspaper editorial page argued against its passage.

The political influence of one corporate entity should not outweigh the multiple voices of business leaders; environmental, public health and energy advocates; and Ohio citizens. Attempts to dissuade people from signing referendum petitions violates a central premise of our democracy and dissemination of blatantly false information through television ads and mailers is reprehensible.