

**Michigan House of Representatives**  
**House Energy Committee**  
**April 27, 2022**

**Testimony of Larry Crittenden RE: HB 6019**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee; thank you for allowing me a few minutes of your time.

I'm here today to express my support for HB 6019. As proposed, this legislation outlines an appropriate scope for the study of nuclear power and puts Michigan a step ahead as we make future energy policy decisions.

For the record, I am not representing any clients, organizations or other interests today. I'm here as a private citizen. I will disclose that through work with utilities and others in my consulting practice, I am quite familiar with issues related to building, operating, and decommissioning nuclear power facilities. These comments to the committee today are my own.

We are at a crucial moment in state and national energy policy. In a sense, we are number crunching our way through a real-time model that includes the following inputs:

- The need for generating capacity to support current and future system load;
- The integration of renewable energy resources and corresponding energy storage facilities;
- Overdue improvements to the electric transmission and distribution grid;
- Affordability for every customer rate class;
- Environmental justice so that we have more equitable distribution of benefits and risks associated with energy production and distribution; and
- The need for carbon-free energy resources, including those that have been operating carbon-free for decades, long before it was considered as a positive attribute.

HB 6019 directs a thorough, reasoned approach to anticipating and understanding policy decisions we will face within just a few years. I believe there is a definite need for carbon-free, baseload energy to replace aging energy resources, and that nuclear power is a viable option.

To be clear, I am a proponent of renewable energy resources, and a good portion of my consulting work deals with approvals and integration of these assets. But given the current capacity factor limitations and considerable siting issues related to wind farms and large-scale solar installations, we would be wise to look at the operational and locational value provided by resources that can operate within a small footprint and power a region.

I fully understand the safety issues and regulatory requirements related to nuclear power. After decades of nuclear power production there are still issues to be resolved, but they tend to be more administrative than technical. But again, HB 6019 specifically directs the study of safety and health as part of the scope of work, and that should include long-term storage or reprocessing of nuclear waste.

The proposed study is also correct to consider:

- Small-scale nuclear technology which is already the subject of promising research and development;
- Coordination with emerging technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture;
- Education and training necessary to sustain safe and efficient operation of nuclear facilities; and
- Existing sites that already have favorable physical characteristics, knowledgeable neighbors, and access to the transmission grid.

In conclusion, this bill is an example of a thoughtful, bi-partisan approach to energy policy – the kind that I enjoyed working on back in 2008-2009 when I was advising and supporting the work of this committee.

Thank you again for your time. I'm happy to respond to any questions you may have.

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