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April 11, 2019

The Honorable Larry Householder
Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St. 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Jamie Callendar
Chair, Public Utilities
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St. 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable Nino Vitale
Chair, Energy & Natural Resources
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St. 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Householder, Chairman Callendar and Chairman Vitale:

AARP Ohio, on behalf of its 1.5 million members and families, strongly opposes any surcharge or tax on utility customers in our state that would serve to subsidize the for-profit nuclear power industry.

Our position is simply this: any legislation that would impose a tax or surcharge paid by utility customers—including residential, commercial and industrial customers—would raise prices for your constituents while citizens of other states that receive power generated by Ohio’s nuclear plants pay lower rates for their electricity. That is patently unfair—why should Ohio customers supplement the electricity bills for those living in other states?

This is especially alarming given the significant number of older Ohioans living on a fixed income who are already struggling with utility rates, rampant increases in drug prices, and the rising costs of healthcare. There have been several previous attempts to subsidize our state’s for-profit nuclear power industry and through every analysis AARP has failed to see any benefit to utility customers. There is a surplus of power in the region and we have yet to hear a reasonable answer as to why Ohioans should have to bailout a profitable company? AARP Ohio asks that you help; protect and prioritize the financial interests of your constituents over the industry’s shareholders by opposing such legislation.

At AARP, we will be aggressively fighting to defeat any attempt to subsidize the nuclear industry on the backs of Ohio utility customers. Please join us in protecting Ohio consumers by opposing such ill-advised legislation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to AARP Ohio if you have any questions or comments regarding our position on this issue.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Sykes, AARP Ohio
State Director

CC: Rep. Kick , Rep. O'Brien, Rep. Denson, Rep. Baldrige, Rep. Cross, Rep. Wiggam, Rep. Stein, Rep. Hillyer, Rep. Ghanbari, Rep. Holmes, Rep. Leland, Rep. Weinstein

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