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LWVO Written Testimony on  
HB178 - ZERO-EMISSION NUCLEAR PROGRAM

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House Public Utilities Committee

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Our opposition to HB178 rests on several points.

While we can debate the pros and cons of nuclear energy and the role it should play in power generation, there are other practical and more immediate concerns at stake in this proposed bail-out. We are particularly concerned about ratepayers' dollars being spent on the 40-year-old Davis Besse nuclear plant. This plant has had an extremely troubled history. From a stuck relief valve in 1977 to a steam leak in 2015, Davis Besse has suffered a variety of ills. There have been serious incidents, multi-million dollar fines, and a criminal conviction. We are not convinced that this reactor can operate safely and efficiently and see no reason that it deserves extra support.

The nuclear subsidies proposed in HB178 will raise skyrocketing electric rates still higher. We have testified previously that the average residential electric bill has increased by \$300 per year since 2008. At the same time the typical Ohio family has seen their state income tax go down by \$300. Their tax relief has been offset by an increase in their electric bill.

Increased electric bills cause more and more customers to get off the grid and free themselves from their electric company. Since renewable energy provides an excellent means of getting off the grid, SB128 is an excellent advertisement for solar energy.

Faced with high nuclear costs, citizens in Georgia took another path. Tea Party activists joined with environmentalists in a successful effort to pass legislation reducing restrictions on solar energy. We believe that this is a more practical course of action than the regressive legislation currently before the Ohio General Assembly

For all of these reasons we oppose HB178.