



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ohio business groups respond to announced closure of nuclear power plants**

*Columbus, OH* – The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) and the National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio (NFIB/Ohio) today responded to the announced closure of three nuclear power plants by First Energy Solutions (FES).

On Wednesday, March 28, FES announced it intends to deactivate three nuclear power plants over the next three years — Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio, and Beaver Valley Power Station in Pennsylvania.

FES has been unsuccessful in convincing Ohio lawmakers to approve a customer-funded bailout for the financially failing plants.

"We take no joy in First Energy Solutions' recent announcement, but make no mistake — it is not the inaction of Ohio policymakers that led to this," said OMA President Eric Burkland. "Ohio decided nearly 20 years ago to move to a competitive energy market. Many generation companies have successfully adapted and continue to thrive. And Ohio energy customers are, without question, coming out ahead."

Key market indicators show that Ohio's competitive generation market is working as anticipated:

- Energy customers are saving money — an average of \$3 billion per year.
- System reliability is improving — the PJM energy market currently has a 25% capacity reserve.
- Ohio has 11 new natural gas power plants announced, approved, or under construction, representing a total investment of roughly \$10 billion and 9,937 megawatts of new capacity.
- Uncompetitive power plants are leaving the market (in Ohio alone, nearly 60 individual coal boilers have already been decommissioned).

"This is what happens in competitive markets in every other business sector," said NFIB/Ohio Executive Director Roger Geiger. "Companies that adapt and modernize succeed. Those that fail to cannot survive. We cannot ask Ohio energy customers, who paid billions of dollars for these plants on the front end, to now provide a bailout after decades of poor business planning."

OMA and NFIB/Ohio, along with other pro-consumer groups are advocating for energy policy that protects Ohio consumers from unfair rate hikes. House Bill 247 sponsored by Representative Mark Romanchuk is one such bill currently being debated in the General Assembly.

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