



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

To: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives
From: Heather Taylor-Miesle, President, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Re: Expelling Representative Larry Householder

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to inform you that the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund will be scoring any actions on the House floor seeking to expel Representative Larry Householder for the purposes of our Legislative Scorecard for the 134th Ohio General Assembly. **We urge a yes vote on any such action to expel Representative Householder from the Ohio House of Representatives.** To the extent that any such action is approved by the Ohio House, the OEC Action Fund will be doing extensive public education on the votes on this action due to its impact to Ohio's environment and the health of Ohioans.

Article II, Section 6 of the Ohio Constitution gives the House of Representatives the authority to punish and expel its members for disorderly conduct. Representative Householder's conduct in the lead up, introduction, passage, and opposition to the referendum of House Bill 6 (HB 6) resulted in disorder to not only the House, but to the entire state. Last July's indictment of Representative Householder and his co-conspirators, supported by more than one million recently released pieces of evidence, shows a culture of corruption that erodes the people's trust in democratic institutions and in those we elect to represent us and our values. Representative Householder's continued presence in the House will be precedent to allow future members to conduct criminal activity and corruption with impunity.

As a result of this misconduct and corruption, Ohioans and our environment will suffer. While pieces of HB 6 have been repealed, two egregious components have yet to be remedied—the extended and expanded bailout of two dirty coal plants, and the repeal of our clean energy standards. With coal plants being kept artificially online, and no programming to help Ohioans reduce our energy consumption or transition toward clean energy sources, our air quality will get worse, our electric bills will rise, and Ohioans' health and our environment will suffer. While there were efforts to repeal our clean energy standards for nearly a decade prior to the passage of HB 6, every effort failed because Ohioans support moving toward a clean energy future and the clean energy standards were working. Ohio's clean energy standards were only finally able to be repealed by a bill that we now know is the product of corruption and bribery.

A functional democracy requires support from the people and trust in governmental organizations and leaders. Faith in Ohio's leaders erode everyday the legislature fails to act to expel Representative Larry Householder and repeal all of HB 6. **We encourage you to take that first step today to begin rebuilding that trust today by voting YES to expel Representative Householder.**

If you have any questions, please direct them to Trish Demeter at tdemeter@theoec.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Taylor-Miesle
President OEC Action Fund