

Good morning, Chairman Cupp, Ranking Member Miller and members of the House Finance Primary and Secondary Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Brain Baldrige, president of the Adams County Board of county commissioners. I am a 4 term county commissioner, prior 2 term township trustee where I served on the Ohio Township Association board of directors and currently serve on the County Commissioners Association board of directors. I am also employed as a firefighter/paramedic with Anderson Township Fire Department on the eastside of Cincinnati. As you have heard from Manchester School District, Adams County is heading down a path of catastrophic consequences. With the announcement of the closure of our 2 coal fire generation plants challenging times are in our future. Killen Station is a single unit located in the southeastern area of Adams County and the Stuart Station is a 4 unit station and the 2nd largest coal fired plant in our great state located in the southwestern part of Adams County. Our County is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest land area county and ranked 78<sup>th</sup> in population at 28500.

I would like to talk about the impact this event will have on our local and county governments. Stewart station is located in Sprigg Township where they will lose 78 % of their operating budget. Killen station is located in Monroe Township and they will lose 85% of their operating budgets. This loss of budget will negatively impact basic services and safety services in these townships. Adams County Government has a general fund budget of 8.5 million. Adams County Auditor, David Gifford, has calculated that due to the plant closures the general fund will lose approximately 1 million dollars. This will affect all the basic services funded by the general budget. Departments that are outside of the general budget funded by countywide levies such as: Emergency Medical Services, Children Services, Senior Citizens, County Health Department, and Developmental Disabilities will also have significant decreases. I have already had departments talk about going to the voters for additional levies. If the county, township and schools were all to place levies in front of the voters after we have seen a 35-50 million decrease in payroll salaries taken out of our community I feel the levies would be voted down. To paraphrase "We know that you just lost your job but by the way your real estate taxes are going to go up 30-40%." We cannot tax levy our way out of this problem.

I also need to mention my concerns for the decommissioning of coal fired power plants in Ohio. AES, DP&L, and Dynegy own 5500 acres along the beautiful Ohio River. I encourage all of us to think about the foot print we leave for our children and grandchildren. We have seen just 20 miles downriver in Clermont County a breach to one of the ash ponds that has contaminated 2 intake wells for Clermont county Waterworks and forced the closure of the wells. The Beckjord coal fired generation station was closed 2 short years ago and we are already having environmental issues. What does 10, 20, or 30 years bring?

The generation stations are the largest employer in Adams County. I must say, that they have been part of our community making it a great place to live, work, and raise a family. As county commissioner we have closely monitored our future with these facilities. Over the last few years they have invested 400 million into upgrades and just last year, at our Adams County Leadership day here at the capital it was discussed that there could be 10 strong years ahead. This latest change of

events has been a bombshell that hit about 5 months ago. I am here today supporting the concerns that Manchester School District has brought before you. I hope I have expanded your understanding of how devastating this is to all of our community. Mr. Chairman and committee again thank you and I would be glad to answer any question you have for me.