



City of Dayton joins lawsuit on House Bill 6 ratepayer rider

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This week, the City of Dayton joined a multi-city effort to file suit to protect ratepayers from fees that stem from the House Bill 6 bailout of FirstEnergy Corporation and other electric utilities.

The HB6 legislation included a “Clean Air Fund Rider” that seeks to add \$900 million to ratepayers’ utility bills over the next 10 years and distribute the money to energy companies that are behind the corruption scheme uncovered by the FBI in the summer of 2020.

Dayton and Toledo are both joining the suit, which was initially brought by Columbus and Cincinnati in the fall of 2020. The initial complainants filed a lawsuit asking the court to stop the Clean Air Fund Rider from taking effect as scheduled on Jan. 1, 2021. In December, the court issued a preliminary injunction doing just that. However, the complainants are still seeking a permanent injunction to ensure that ratepayers are not forced to pay this fee.

“House Bill 6 saddled Ohio’s ratepayers – who are families and business owners – with the cost of a corrupt bill,” said Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. “Since the legislature refuses to repeal this bill, it is up to cities to protect our residents by fighting it in court. Dayton ratepayers should not have to foot the bill for corruption in the Statehouse.”

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has also filed suit against First Energy, Speaker Householder, and others. Like the cities, Attorney General Yost argues that HB6 and the Clean Air Fund Rider are the product of corrupt legislation, and he seeks to prevent corrupt energy companies from receiving any proceeds from the bill.

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