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**Testimony before the Sunset Review Committee in Support of the Radiation Advisory Council**

May 10, 2016

Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Radiation Advisory Council, or RAC. My name is Paul Geis and I am a practicing medical physicist and cancer scientist at University Hospitals in Cleveland. One of my professional responsibilities is ensuring the safety of patients and hospital staff in the use of medical radiation, and working with ODH in their reviews of our radiation program. I've seen first-hand the important work done by the RAC relevant to the use of radiation in health care.

The RAC supports two subcommittees that provide rule review and advice to the Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection. These committees are essentially working groups of Ohio citizens, medical and industrial radiation professionals, and ODH liaisons that collaborate to revise and improve some of the more complicated sections of the administrative code. That collaboration has given Ohio one of the most rigorous radiation protection programs in the country, without being too burdensome to state entities and businesses that use radiation. An example are new rules – put in place this year – that provide more medically relevant criteria for reporting errors in cancer patients' radiation therapy. These rules decrease the chance serious errors will go unreported, and improve quality of care to cancer patients in Ohio. Ohio is – as far as I know – the first state to adopt this improved approach.

Replacing the RAC with a series of ad hoc rule advisory committees would likely destroy the collaborative relationship the Bureau's liaisons currently enjoy with their medical and industrial committee members. When balancing the safety benefits of new rules against additional costs or restrictions imposed on radiation users, compromise and a desire to meet everyone's needs in the room is critical. Members of the RAC committee view ODH's liaisons as colleagues working towards a common purpose. Ad hoc committees run the risk of bringing a group of stakeholders into the process whose primary interest is that of their industry or employer. For the ODH liaisons, access to radiation experts who they can trust to give balanced advice may be lost.

I've served on one of the RAC's subcommittees for several years. There's no compensation for the subcommittee members, other than a day's worth of work piled up on my desk when I return from Columbus. I serve on the committee because I see real value in the work it does with the Department of Health. Ohio has a great model for rule review and revision in radiation protection, and it would be a shame to lose it.

I urge you to support retaining the Radiation Advisory Council in the Ohio Revised Code.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Geis', is written over a horizontal dashed line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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