

# State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan

*Ohio House District 14*

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***Proudly serving Parma, Parma Heights,  
and Cleveland's West Park Neighborhood!***

Dear District 14 Resident:

As your state representative, I view one of my main jobs as bringing home dollars from Columbus to our local community to positively impact our quality of life. I am very happy to report that, after a lot of hard work, I recently successfully negotiated and secured \$700,000 in funding for University Hospitals Parma Medical Center's Breast Cancer Center.

My dear mom succumbed to breast cancer a decade ago, and, like many others, I have many friends who have and continue to grapple with it. I know the great work that University Hospitals does for the Parma area and all of northeast Ohio. For these reasons, I was a fierce advocate for the large allocation of funds for UH Parma's Breast Cancer Center.

This funding will enhance services that are provided to patients by increased screenings and ultimately resulting in earlier treatment and intervention. In fact, the new center will offer:

- Walk-in screenings and extended hours with option for same-day diagnostic workup and surgery consultation
- Same day screening results
- Upgraded advanced imaging equipment
- Expanded access to specialized breast radiologists and surgeons
- Increased annual mammogram volume

Upon hearing the news, my good friend Chief Operating Officer of UH Parma Dr. James Hill said, "The enhanced UH Parma Breast Health Center will help increase screenings and ultimately save lives. We are thrilled that State Representative Brennan helped secure funding to bring innovative and personal patient care close to home. It will allow our caregivers additional resources to prevent, diagnose, and treat breast disease and help our patients live healthier lives."

The Center will serve patients from the Parma community and beyond, providing quality healthcare to the entire region.

As always, if my office may be of service, please contact us. I also invite you to visit my website to learn more about how I am serving you and to sign up for this monthly newsletter. You can also read all of my past newsletters going back to January, 2023. I am continually honored to serve you!

Sincerely,

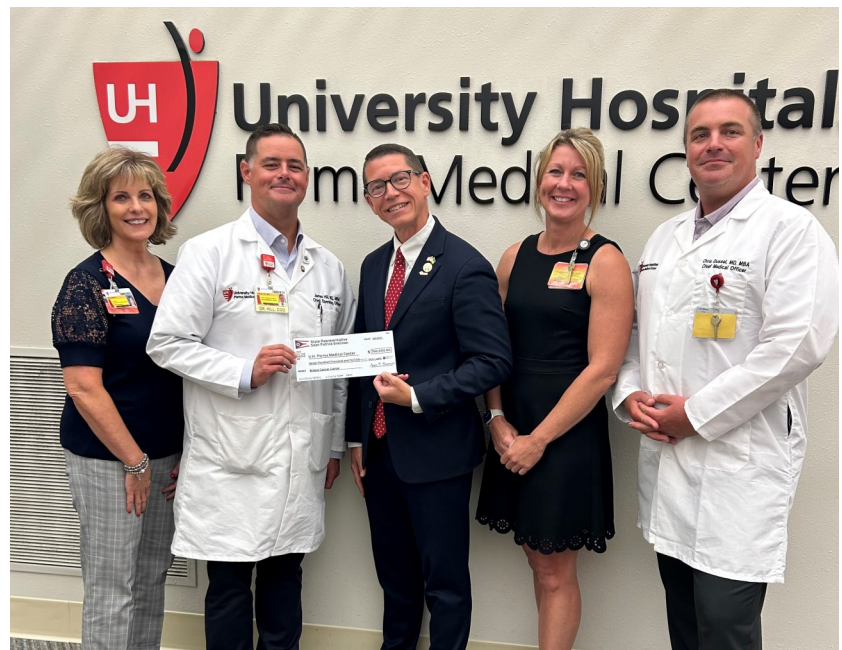
**Sean Patrick Brennan**

State Representative, District 14

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From left, UH Parma Medical Center Director of Operations Mary Beth Talarico, Chief Operating Officer Dr. James Hill, State Rep. Sean P. Brennan, Chief Nursing Officer Yvonne Moon and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Chris Dussel.



## State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan Speaks Out to Keep First Energy Accountable

PUCO chair mum when asked how agency will ensure FirstEnergy spends money to avoid power outages - Published: Sep. 04, 2024 (Cleveland.com/Plain Dealer) by Sean McDonald

COLUMBUS - In light of August's massive power outages, state **Rep. Sean Brennan** asked the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) how it plans to make sure that FirstEnergy spends customers money on avoiding power outages. Regulators had no response. **Brennan** asked the PUCO members directly: "How will the PUCO hold FirstEnergy accountable for maintenance going forward?"

Jenifer French, chair of the PUCO, said FirstEnergy has a case pending before regulators. "Therefore, of course, we can't make any comments on that." The exchange came during the PUCO's Wednesday afternoon meeting, right after FirstEnergy officials had given commissioners a long and detailed presentation about the power outages that came from the Aug. 6 storms that included five tornadoes in Greater Cleveland. FirstEnergy told commissioners that restoring power cost an estimated \$124.7 million. That includes spending \$105 million paying both FirstEnergy's workers and thousands of extra workers brought in through mutual aid.

**Brennan** said at the public meeting that residents were impressed by the linemen's response after the power outage. But he said residents were also worried that fees they paid on their utility bills weren't spent well. **Brennan** was referring to an audit the PUCO released in January 2022. FirstEnergy had collected hundreds of millions of dollars from utility customers in a fee called a rider, which was supposed to be used to modernize its electric grid.

The state-commissioned audit found no evidence that the money led the Akron-based utility to spend more on grid modernization. The audit also found that FirstEnergy didn't track how the money collected under its "distribution modernization rider" (or DMR) was spent, so auditors couldn't tell whether any of it was spent on lobbying for the scandal-ridden House Bill 6 or increasing dividend payments to investors.

FirstEnergy spokeswoman Jennifer Young said in an email that the audit found no evidence that the revenue from the fee was spent on lobbying. However in the audit, the PUCO said that "given the inability to trace how Rider DMR funds were spent, we cannot rule out with certainty use of Rider DMR funds to support of the passage of H.B. 6."

**Brennan** said that despite Ohioans paying "significant dollars" toward the grid, the state seemed to have more power outages than its peers. He also said that because how the fees were spent wasn't tracked, some wondered if FirstEnergy spent it on lobbying "including the \$60 million bribe we all know about."

**Brennan** was referring to the House Bill 6 scandal, where FirstEnergy admitted to paying bribes to the former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and others to get help get the bill passed. It provided \$1 billion to bail out two financially troubled nuclear power plants owned by a previous FirstEnergy subsidiary. According to a report from Payless Power, a Texas-based energy company, in 2022, Ohio ranked third among all states with the most customers affected by power outages per capita.

After the presentation, Ohio Consumers' Counsel Agency Director Maureen Willis released a statement, also saying that Ohio consumers provide utilities with millions of dollars to improve service reliability. "Utilities must use these funds responsibly to minimize the frequency and duration of power outages for consumers," Willis said in a statement. "It's a consumer safety issue year-round, but even more so during extreme weather conditions."

French declined to comment, saying that FirstEnergy had a grid modernization case before the commission that was pending. FirstEnergy officials at the meeting also didn't address **Brennan's** question during the meeting, according to a livestreamed video of meeting.

Watch the meeting here: [www.youtube.com/live/iL6OAnKo1y0?si=PN4NnDMcFJErohLh](https://www.youtube.com/live/iL6OAnKo1y0?si=PN4NnDMcFJErohLh)





## State Rep. Brennan Takes Part in Transatlantic Summit at the Ohio Statehouse

On September 19th, I represented Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter and the District 14 communities of Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland in the Transatlantic Summit of the Strong Cities Network in Columbus in the Governor's office at the Ohio Statehouse. In attendance were the following: Andrii Besedin, Mayor of Kupyansk, Ukraine, Oleksandr Senkevych, Mayor of Mykolaiv, Ukraine, Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Ohio Department of Development, Tobias Engle, Manager of the International Affairs Strategic Investment Division of the Ohio Department of Development, Michael Schadek Director of Regional Partnerships for the city of Columbus, and representatives of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, Nazar Zhdan, State Relations and Advocacy, Marta Liscynsky-Kelleher, Past President, and George E. Jaskiw, M.D., President.

The mayors of the two Ukrainian cities described the deep challenges of providing for their communities, while experiencing daily attacks by the Russian Federation. The city of Kupyansk is less than four miles from the front line. Mykolaiv is further away but continues to be attacked on a regular basis. Director Mihalik and I reaffirmed Ohio's steadfast support for Ukraine and potential partnerships were outlined, including initiatives in education, governance, advisory services, clean water management, and positioning Ohio businesses to play a vital role in Ukraine's reconstruction. Both mayors expressed their gratitude to everyone in attendance, the residents of Ohio, and all people of the United States for the continuing humanitarian and military support which has allowed Ukraine to resist Russia's brutal invasion.

During the summit we discussed and shared information regarding Ohio's close and important economic trade ties to Ukraine. Many do not realize the importance our trade relationship is to many Ohio businesses or the jobs related to it. For instance, from 2021 to 2023, Ohio exports to Ukraine totaled approximately \$100 million. Among our top exports include vehicles and parts, pharmaceutical products, industrial machinery (including computers), tobacco and manufactured substances, optic, photo, and medical instruments, electric machinery, sound equipment, and television equipment, sugars and sugar confectionaries, aircraft and parts, furniture and bedding, rubber and rubber articles, etc.

Ukraine also provides us with many of things we need to stoke Ohio's economy. In fact, our main imports from Ukraine include iron and steel, paper, paperboard, apparel articles, industrial machinery, inorganic chemicals, rare earth minerals, aircraft and parts, plastics, plastic articles, etc. Total imports from Ukraine into Ohio were valued at over \$500 million from 2021 through 2023.

It is estimated that Ohio is home to over 45,000 residents of Ukrainian ancestry, with about a tenth or more living in the city of Parma. In fact, this and the fact that Parma is home to Ukrainian Village and many Ukrainian Churches, places of business, and schools and cultural centers makes Parma the Ukrainian Capital of Ohio. As such, I was honored earlier this year when Rep. Bill Seitz and I successfully passed H.B. 360 in the Ohio House of Representatives in a very bipartisan vote. This bill will recognize Ukrainian Independence Day, August 24, as an officially recognized holiday in Ohio.







- 1 - Visiting Parma resident Rosemary Sly to wish her a happy 99th birthday! Here's to 100!
- 2 - My Councilwoman, Debbie Lime of Parma's Ward 2, invited me to speak at her safety meeting.
- 3 - Attending the groundbreaking of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Primate Forest. This exciting project, which I helped procure \$2 million from the state to assist, will transform the Rainforest and place our zoo and region on the world stage.
- 4 - This Irish guy was honored to serve as the Grand Marshal for the Parma Ukrainian Independence Day parade on August 24! Here I am with my good friend St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral's Pastor Emeritus Fr. John Nakonachny.
- 5 - Welcoming 7-Bru Drive Thru Coffee to Parma at Pleasant Valley and Broadview Roads.
- 6 - Meeting with companies at the forefront of addressing the lead waterline problem at the Cleveland Water Department in Parma Heights.

