

**News From:**  
**Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie**



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**LAKE ADVOCATES BRAND OEPA DIRECTOR BUTLER'S COMMENTS AS "UDDER NONSENSE"**

The following is ACLE's response to Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler's comments, described as "udder nonsense" by ACLE coordinator, Mike Ferner, today, at the TMACOG Water Quality Task Force meeting, .

- 1) Butler comment: After spending \$3 billion in the Western Lake Erie Watershed, we "hope to see some progress."
  - ACLE response: It is hard to believe that the director of Ohio's EPA can make that statement without acknowledging that the money has been spent on pollution control measures that do not address the problems that cause Lake Erie to go toxic every summer. See the attached "Things that don't work for \$41 million" for more information.
- 2) Butler: 80% of excess Phosphorus in western Lake Erie comes from commercial fertilizer, with about 20% coming from manure.
  - ACLE response: Considering the following points, Butler's statement is simply not credible.
  - a) Just one out of more than 150 CAFOs in our watershed dump as much animal waste on surrounding fields as the combined sewage from Perrysburg, Sylvania, Maumee, Defiance and Fremont (see attached). All told, they dump, untreated, on fields draining into Lake Erie, more than the sewage produced by Chicago and Los Angeles.
  - b) Since 2011, commercial fertilizer sales in the western Lake Erie Basin have fallen by half.
  - c) As the attached graph from OSU's Sea Grant program indicates, total dissolved Phosphorus levels in Lake Erie fell significantly from 1974 until the mid-90's when CAFOs started multiplying throughout the watershed.
- 3) Butler: in describing how following the Clean Water Act's impaired process may not be effective said, "The Clean Water Act is focused almost solely on waste water treatment (sewage) plants."
  - ACLE response. [This document from the USEPA](#) (pgs. 1, 4) clearly states that CAFOs are considered point sources of pollution and are indeed covered by the Clean Water Act.
- 4) Butler and "straw men": One of the oldest tricks in debating is to claim the other side is concerned about something that isn't true and then be able to knock it down like a "straw man." Butler resorted to this tactic when he repeated the statement that an impaired watershed designation is "not a silver bullet."
  - ACLE response. We, nor any other environmentalist engaged in this issue, has ever said that an impaired designation would solve what ails Lake Erie. We have said repeatedly that getting that status is only a first step, that much work remains to be done and that it should never have taken this long to get it.

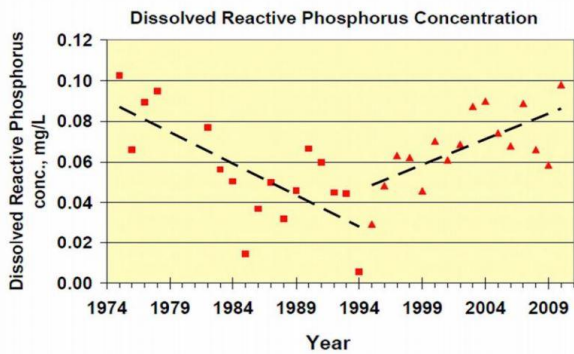
5) Butler: “More research is needed.”

- ACLE response: Butler said this in regards to several issues, the most damning being in response to Sandy Bihn’s point that commercial fertilizer is supposed to be applied to fields at 40 ppm of Phosphorus, while manure is allowed to be applied at 150 ppm. Butler said, astonishingly, that “we are trying to determine the proper rate” and more study is required. That is absolutely not the case, as stated in the [“Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations,”](#) (pg. 13) published by OSU, MSU and Purdue.

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Things that don't  
work for \$41M.pdf



Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory

3,900 cows at Bridgewater Dairy in Williams County, generate more animal waste every year than Perrysburg, Sylvania, Maumee, Defiance and Fremont, combined.

