



Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie

For Immediate Release June 3, 2016

LAKE ADVOCATES SHINE SPOTLIGHT ON REP. MARCY KAPTUR FOR REFUSING TO BACK EPA CLEANUP

For the first time, Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie will give U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur equal billing with Toledo's mayor and city council for not supporting U.S. EPA "impaired" status for Lake Erie. Until now, the group has focused on City of Toledo officials who have refused to join the Lucas County Commissioners and the City of Oregon in backing the EPA designation.

The group has chosen the Old West End Festival Parade to visually "burst on the scene" with gallon jugs of green "Lake Erie Water" priced at \$6,000,000 – the additional amount Toledo spends each year in chemicals to treat toxic algae. Also debuting will be the group's new logo and new banner declaring "CLEAN H2O IS OUR RIGHT!"

A new, hard-hitting flyer will also be distributed, stating,

- "DO YOU REMEMBER THE WATER CRISIS OF 2014? IT CONTINUES..." and,
- "POLLUTERS CONTAMINATE OUR WATER AND PAY NOTHING! WE PAY IN OUR HEALTH AND WATER BILLS!"

The flyers prominently display contact information for Rep. Kaptur, Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson and Toledo City Council, urging citizens to call and write them all.

After the parade, members of the environmental advocacy group will circulate among festival-goers, getting postcards signed that will be sent to Rep. Kaptur, the mayor and city council, demanding they support the impaired designation.

700,000,000 gallons of untreated animal waste – equal to the combined sewage of Chicago and Los Angeles – are dumped on farm fields draining into Lake Erie every year. Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie sees the U.S. EPA's impaired status process, also being used for Chesapeake Bay, as the quickest and best route to stemming that flow and saving the lake from massive algal blooms every summer like the one in August, 2014 that shut off water to over 400,000 people for nearly three days.

-end-
