



Joint Press Advisory

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GROUPS TAKE SILENT PROTEST TO CITY COUNCIL

This afternoon, at 4pm, in Toledo City Council Chambers, members of [Toledoans for Safe Water](#) and [Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie](#) will offer mute testimony exposing Council's refusal to put the Lake Erie Bill of Rights on Toledo's ballot. They will stand before Council, mouths taped shut, bearing the inscription, "LET US VOTE!"

Following their silent protest, members of the two groups will distribute to everyone in Council chambers, a flyer urging people to call and write council members and post social media messages to council members saying, **"YOU DID IT FOR THE JAIL, YOU CAN DO IT FOR LAKE ERIE! PUT THE LAKE ERIE BILL OF RIGHTS ON THE BALLOT!"** (flyer attached)

"Apparently democracy works when it comes to letting people decide where to put a jail, but not for letting people decide how to protect their drinking water," said Mike Ferner, ACLE coordinator. "We suspect it might have something to do with the political pressure being applied by corporations that don't want polluters to be held accountable, like the [Affiliated Construction Trades of Ohio, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the American Petroleum Institute, Ohio Oil and Gas Association, the Ohio Chemistry Technology Assoc.](#), along with the [Ohio Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen, Dairy Producers, Pork, Poultry, Corn and Wheat Associations](#) that all filed with the Ohio Supreme Court to keep LEBOR off the ballot."

Markie Miller, Toledoans for Safe Water organizer added, "We expect all members of council to uphold the rights of the people of Toledo and pass an ordinance that puts LEBOR on the same February special election ballot as the jail initiative. We are done being patient and are offended at their lack of action on this critical matter. There is nothing to debate. Let the people vote. Council members don't have to support it, but they cannot impede democracy and silence their constituents."

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