

## **Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie**

### **Press Advisory**

#### **Michigan environmentalist kicks off new Toledo group for Lake Erie**

Tuesday evening, March 29, 7:00 pm, at the Walbridge Park shelter house, Pam Taylor, a veteran activist with the [Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan](#) will be the speaker at the first public program of [Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie](#).

Ms. Taylor, who coordinated ECCSCM's stream monitoring project for e.coli, phosphorus, nitrates and ammonia in 20 Michigan townships where [13 CAFOs](#) (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) produce, store, and apply manure, will address the environmental impact of the [146 CAFOs](#) or factory farms throughout the Maumee River Watershed in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.

Those 146 CAFOs generate 700,000,000 gallons of Phosphorus-rich animal waste every year, more than the sewage from Los Angeles and Chicago combined. This untreated waste is spread on farm fields that drain into Lake Erie where [toxic algae blooms](#) have reached crisis proportions in recent years.

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie plans to generate grassroots political pressure to get the U.S. EPA to declare the western basin of the lake an "impaired watershed" and mandate a cleanup that will hold polluters accountable.

The group's first goal is to get Toledo's mayor and city council to formally request the US EPA put Lake Erie on the impaired watershed list, something local officials have refused to do.

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