



Press Advisory

December 8, 2016

ADVOCATES THANK MAYOR, POINT OUT MISTAKE IN TRUMP LETTER

Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson's recent letter to President-elect Trump contained some welcome news for environmentalists working for a cleanup of Lake Erie, but it also contained a vital error.

Quoting from the ACLE letter to the mayor:

Your letter, however, included a fundamental error regarding the federal role in cleaning up bodies of water under the authority of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The mistake is found here in your letter to Trump: *"Unfortunately, the Clean Water Act does not directly regulate non-point sources of pollution, which is the root problem with Lake Erie water quality."*

And you added, *"An Executive Order can help clarify the role of the federal government and create accountability in the restoration effort."*

Please understand these two vital points:

- 1) The CWA does indeed authorize the EPA to regulate non-point sources of pollution.
- 2) Implying that subject is unsettled is completely unwarranted and will only lead to additional delay in getting Lake Erie back to health. It is, in fact, the very argument the American Farm Bureau and its allies used in an unsuccessful, five-year federal lawsuit filed to stop the Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

The entire letter is attached.

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