

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie



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(GLRI figures revised 3/23/17)

**TRUMP CUTS TO GREAT LAKES FUNDING ARE BAD, BUT MANURE’S IMPACT
ON LAKE ERIE HAS NEVER BEEN EPA PRIORITY** (figures revised 3/23/17)

TOLEDO – While calling the Trump administration’s proposed cuts to the EPA’s Great Lakes funding “wrongheaded,” Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie today said the cuts will have negligible impact on finding who is responsible for Lake Erie’s toxic algae blooms and holding them accountable.

“The thing is, what’s poisoning Lake Erie is primarily an excess of nutrients, [85% from agriculture](#) and we suspect, most of that from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) dumping the equivalent of [Chicago and Los Angeles’ sewage](#), untreated, every year on fields draining into the lake,” said Mike Ferner, an ACLE coordinator. “But let’s be honest here. Neither the U.S. nor the Ohio EPA have been interested in who is responsible, nor in holding them accountable. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding reflects that.”

As proof, an ACLE analysis of 2.06 billion dollars in [funding for 4,378 GLRI projects](#) from 2010 to 2016 found that in 194 single-spaced pages of project descriptions the word “manure” was mentioned a grand total of two times.”

Ferner added that, “The Farm Bureau and Big Ag have insulated polluters from accountability. The portion of EPA funding concerned with agriculture’s role has gone almost entirely to ‘best management practices’ that we know don’t work for dissolved Phosphorus, the main culprit in toxic algae blooms.”

ACLE acknowledged that GLRI funding is important to the health of the Great Lakes because it funds work on invasive species, toxic waste cleanup and habitat restoration. Funds for this important work should not be cut. But finding out who and what is responsible for Lake Erie’s toxic algae has not been a funding priority of the GLRI.

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