

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie

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IT'S TIME TO START POINTING FINGERS

"We don't point fingers" is the favorite mantra of the grifters, academics, scientists and public officials who've flooded Toledo this week for the National Algae Association meeting at UT and the OSU Sea Grant conference at Stranahan Hall.

What do they all have in common? Every one wants to look like they're doing something and no one has the political backbone to hold polluters accountable and make them clean up the toxic mess they've made of our lake.

"We don't point fingers," allows everyone to be polite, feel good and vent some hot air without endangering their position at the "Algae Trough" of public money. But all the while, no one is held accountable for poisoning Lake Erie.

Toxic algae -- cyanobacteria -- is big business for entrepreneurs trying to make a buck, continued funding for academics whose research always calls for more research and for public officials who have made a career out of avoiding the source of the problem.

How much more evidence do we need?

- Nearly 800 animal factories pump out more than twice as much sewage as the cities of Los Angeles and Chicago combined and dump it, untreated on the fields draining into Lake Erie. Not one dime of federal or state money funds the work needed to find out exactly who is dumping how much of what into our waterways. Instead, farmers get more subsidies for programs that don't work, politicians pretend to "do something" and citizens pay higher and higher water bills because the crap just keeps flowing downstream into our drinking water.
- Just since Toledo's water crisis in 2014, the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture has licensed new and expanded animal factories that produce SIX TIMES as much sewage as the City of Toledo. And not one of these animal factories is required to have a sewage treatment plant.

The Clean Water Act sets out a straightforward process that the Ohio and U.S. EPA are now supposed to follow since Lake Erie has been declared "impaired," starting with a thorough pollution inventory across the entire watershed. But political pressure from the Farm Bureau and the animal factory owners prevents that from happening at every turn. ACLE is back in Federal Court to try and force the EPA to follow the law.

Gov. DeWine's "H2Ohio" is the latest [billion dollar fraud](#) in this ongoing tragedy. Not a single dollar of that money will go to implement the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Increasingly larger sums of our tax dollars are thrown at the problem without ever nailing the perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

ACLE's message is not to the public officials meeting at Stranahan Hall tomorrow. It is to the citizens of Ohio: millions more of your tax dollars will be wasted and Lake Erie will continue to suffer until you decide you've had enough. The politicians, academics and grifters will continue to feed at the algae trough until you raise enough hell and demand a change. It's time we start pointing fingers.

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