



Paula Hicks-Hudson
MAYOR

December 1, 2016

President-Elect Donald J. Trump
Trump Tower
725 5th Ave.
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

Congratulations on your victory. As Mayor of Toledo I was heartened by the fact that you recognize the importance of our City by making three separate visits here during a very busy campaign. I think many national candidates have tremendous success when they pay attention to the issues facing Ohioans.

But I was even more delighted to read your comment to the New York Times that crystal clear water is vitally important. We have a very serious water problem in the Great Lakes Region in that excessive phosphorus is being absorbed by Lake Erie creating huge harmful algal blooms. The blooms turn our beautiful lake into a disgusting mess. But worse, the blooms create a toxin that turns the water into poison.

The City of Toledo has done more than its fair share in reducing water pollution and phosphorus loading. In fact, we are over halfway through a program to spend \$521 million on our infrastructure to prevent sewer overflows. Additionally, we are spending \$446 million on upgrades to our water treatment plant, such as ozone technology, to ensure that our water is safe to drink.

Despite the hundreds of millions of dollars that hard-working Toledoans are forced to spend on these programs, they will not solve the problem of harmful algal blooms. The root of the problem is that excessive phosphorus loads are coming from non-point agricultural sources. In my judgment, this problem is not being properly addressed by existing policies, agreements and regulatory tools.

Your predecessor issued an Executive Order regarding the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay that has largely been seen as an important step in creating accountability in that environmental restoration. I write you today to ask that you use the power of your Presidency to issue a similar Executive Order regarding the protection and restoration of Lake Erie.

Some political insiders may claim that enough work is already being done on this issue through the Nutrients Annex of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. But the EPA Science Advisory Board analyzed those goals and determined that they are not good enough to stop routine harmful algal blooms from returning year after year. Furthermore, there are conflicting views over what should be the role of the federal government in addressing this problem. For example, Congressmen Marcy Kaptur and Debbie Dingell recently called for the open waters of the Lake to be declared impaired under the Clean Water Act. Ohio has designated the shoreline and areas around water intakes as impaired, but Michigan has declared its portion of the western Lake Erie watershed as impaired. Many environmental advocates believe that an impairment designation under the Clean Water Act will help clean up the Lake. Unfortunately, the Clean Water Act does not directly regulate non-point sources of pollution, which is the root problem with Lake Erie water quality. An Executive Order can help clarify the role of the federal government and create accountability in the restoration effort.

I believe that a strong Executive Order requiring real change will help to restore the water quality of our national treasure. Using your executive power to make our lake great again will be a lasting legacy. You would literally be draining a swamp and restoring crystal-clear water to Lake Erie if you address the nutrient problem. I hope to work with you to restore a lake that all Americans can enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula Hicks-Hudson", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson
City of Toledo