



## **Press Advisory**

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September 26, 2017

### **“IN THIS UNFOLDING CONUNDRUM OF LIFE AND HISTORY THERE IS SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO LATE.”**

Those words of Martin Luther King, Jr. come to mind when hearing of our mayor's announcement today to support an EPA "impaired watershed" designation for western Lake Erie.

After two years of stating repeatedly that an EPA designation is unnecessary, in fact claiming it would actually be detrimental to the City of Toledo and after literally hundreds of phone calls, letters and direct conversations urging her to support the designation, our mayor has finally changed her mind. We would like to say "better late than never," but unfortunately that is not the case.

Her obstinate and frankly, mystifying refusal to join the Lucas County Commissioners, the City of Oregon and the City of Northwood in support of the EPA designation means the largest municipality by far in the watershed has not only stood on the sidelines but actually condemned the idea when we should have been building political support and momentum.

Maybe the mayor is looking for votes in the upcoming election. Maybe it's because a huge mat of toxic bacteria washed up on the shores of Toledo last week. We don't know the reason for her change of policy.

But we do know this. Toledoans are right to ask, *“If our mayor had acted two years ago, would the Obama administration have responded the way it did for Chesapeake Bay, ordering federal agencies to cooperate in a mandatory cleanup and making billions of federal dollars available for the effort?”* It's not enough to proclaim you love clean water. Sometimes you have to do something about it.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time.”

It is time now for Toledoans to vote out a mayor and council who have steadfastly refused to support impairment and vote in the Clean Slate for Clean Water: Kapszukiewicz for mayor and Melden, Savage and Komives for council.

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