News From: Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie

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STATE REPS. FEDOR AND SHEEHY INTRODUCE IMPAIRMENT RESOLUTION

State Representatives Teresa Fedor and Mike Sheehy on Tuesday introduced a resolution in the Ohio House of Representatives urging the USEPA to declare the Western basin of Lake Erie impaired under the provisions of the Clean Water Act.

<u>The resolution stated</u> that despite USEPA regulations requiring states to "assemble and evaluate all existing and readily available water quality related data," the Ohio EPA

- Did not properly evaluate whether the open waters of the western basin should be declared impaired, despite a history of toxic algal blooms that are likely to continue
- Did not include the western basin on its biannual list to the USEPA of impaired waters despite recurring problems with toxic algae

Mike Ferner, coordinator of Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie congratulated the representatives for introducing the resolution and said, "The resolution echoes the concerns that prompted us to <u>file suit in Federal Court</u> in an attempt to compel the USEPA to do its job under the Clean Water Act and mandate a legally binding cleanup that will hold polluters accountable. <u>Millions of dollars are being wasted</u> on voluntary schemes that have not worked and will hold nobody accountable. It's time for our public servants to follow the law and clean up our lake."