

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie



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**GOVERNOR, LEGISLATIVE LEADERS WARNED \$900 MILLION COULD BE WASTED ON
FAILED LAKE CLEANUP METHODS**

In a strongly-worded letter to Ohio Governor DeWine and legislative leaders (attached), Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie (ACLE) warned that the governor's proposed 900 million dollar fund for Lake Erie will be a decade-long fraud on taxpayers to pay for so-called "conservation measures" proven not to work.

Mike Ferner, coordinator of Toledo-based Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie explained, "It's a textbook case of throwing good money after bad. The so-called 'conservation measures' it will pay farmers to implement have been shown not to keep dissolved phosphorus out of the lake."

In six points, ACLE's letter laid out why "Determining what's needed is really not difficult...All you have to do is look at the source of the excess nutrients. The difficult part is standing up to the political forces that keep polluters insulated from accountability and keep Lake Erie toxic every summer."

Documentation for the points included an Ohio State University Sea Grant graph showing that dissolved phosphorus levels in western Lake Erie fell significantly after 1974 until the mid-1990's when pig, cow and poultry factories started locating in the watershed. Other arguments for the group's case included studies showing that dissolved phosphorus is not reduced by planting filter strips along creeks or installing grassed waterways in fields, concluding that "another dangerous outbreak of microcystin toxins this summer or next depends totally on the weather."

The letter to DeWine and the leadership of the Ohio House and Senate agriculture and finance committees, concluded by stating "Given all this, it makes absolutely no sense to allocate more millions to 'fix' Lake Erie until you take an honest, objective look at what works and what doesn't. Failing to do so will insure a huge waste of tax dollars and worse, continue the decline of the lake that every elected official swears to love."

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