

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie



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OHIO SENATE BILL 1: WRITTEN FOR LAKE ERIE OR FARM BUREAU?
Lake Advocates submit tough questions to joint House-Senate Ag Hearing

TOLEDO – [Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie](#) (ACLE) today submitted [questions](#) to the Ohio Senate and House Ag Committee chairs, ranking committee members and Rep. Michael Sheehy, to be included in the record of tomorrow’s joint hearing on Ohio SB 1, the bill touted by the Kasich administration as important for cleaning up Lake Erie’s toxic algae problems.

“We’re watching to see if SB 1 has helped stop the flood of manure and excess nutrients assaulting western Lake Erie,” said ACLE coordinator, Mike Ferner.

“To determine that, we need data that shows Ohio Dept. of Agriculture enforcement and test results prove there is less e. coli, dissolved Phosphorus and other nutrients washing into the lake. The [questions we submitted](#) will tell us whether this bill was written to protect Lake Erie or protect factory farm operators from accountability.”

ACLE has frequently pointed out that over 150 confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the western Lake Erie watershed produce more feces, urine, antibiotic-resistant bacteria and polluted process water than the cities of Los Angeles and Chicago combined. The liquid waste is dumped, untreated, on farm fields that drain into Lake Erie every year.

After several years of protest and a Federal Court lawsuit, ACLE was instrumental in getting the open waters of western Lake Erie listed as “impaired,” a status that is supposed to result in a clean-up under provisions of the federal Clean Water Act, similar to what is ongoing in [Chesapeake Bay](#).

Opponents of the impaired designation, including Ohio’s governor, [top OEPA officials](#), legislators such as State Senator Randy Gardner, and the Ohio Farm Bureau have pointed to SB 1 as an important step to clean up Lake Erie without using the Clean Water Act.

“We are looking forward to responses to our questions,” Ferner concluded.

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