

News From:
Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie

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NATIONAL SURVEY: WESTERN LAKE ERIE BEACH SECOND WORST OF ALL U.S. COASTAL STATES

TOLEDO – A new survey of 2,620 beaches in 29 U.S. coastal states and Puerto Rico has revealed that only two beaches in Texas have more “unsafe” days due to E. coli contamination than one beach on Western Lake Erie.

As reported in [USA Today](#), Denver-based [Environment America Research and Policy Center](#) and Santa Barbara-based [Frontier Group](#) issued their report to stress that “47 years after we passed the Clean Water Act we are still concerned with poop in the water when people want to go swimming,” according to John Rumpler, clean water program director for the center.

According to the report, “[Safe for Swimming?](#)” Maumee Bay State Park was unsafe for swimming 77% of the days for which it was tested. Also in Western Lake Erie, Bay View West Beach in Erie County had a 69% rating.

Mike Ferner, coordinator of Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie, said, “Over 700 animal factories in our watershed produce more than double the amount of E.coli-laden waste as the cities of Chicago and Los Angeles combined. It’s then dumped, untreated, on fields draining into our drinking water supply.”

“We shouldn’t be surprised Lake Erie still has a national black eye five years after Toledoans couldn’t drink or bathe in their water because absolutely nothing has been done to determine who is responsible for the pollution nor hold them accountable. Billions of dollars have been spent upgrading water treatment plants and subsidizing agricultural practices that do nothing to reduce the toxins flowing into our lake, but we are no closer to determining the sources and amounts of pollution than we were in 2014 when our water was shut off,” he added.

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