



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OHIO

17 South High Street, Suite 650 • Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone (614) 469-1505 • Fax (614) 469-7918

www.lwvohio.org

LWVO Written Testimony on
HB 61 - LAKE ERIE FERTILIZER-DREDGING

Alan R. Rosenfield, ScD FASM

alanpeg@alum.mit.edu

Kristin Vessey, PhD

kbvessey@gmail.com

House Agriculture Committee

February 25, 2015

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is pleased to support HB61- LAKE ERIE FERTILIZER-DREDGING - as an important step in the control of water pollution in Northwest Ohio. We particularly support the omission of the sunset provision contained in SB 1.

However, we are concerned that funds devoted to this program will be diverted from other pollution control programs. Therefore we urge the General Assembly to allocate new funds to carry out the activities required by HB 61.

We also recommend the following:

- Program oversight remain with ODNR.
- Since the League of Women Voters is a strong advocate of citizens' right to know, nutrient management plans should be made part of the public record.
- Immediate cessation of depositing dredge material into Lake Erie and its tributaries.
- Future consideration be given to extending the coverage to other areas of the state with similar problems. It is hoped that the lessons learned in the administration of HB61 will be useful in combatting algae elsewhere.