

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – April 26, 2016

Lobbyist Report - Land Use

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The 131st General Assembly began last year (2015) and runs for 2 years. Remember that as an umbrella category, Land Use (LU) can include such topics as brownfields, water issues, fracking, marijuana fields, transportation, manure, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), etc. Right now, the problems of Lake Erie still seem foremost; the legislators are working on ways to approach the pollution and algae, although Senator Gardner claims that they will not now work on rules for the entire watershed, continuing to thwart, we fear, real improvement in the lake.

During the early months of 2015, bills associated with the northwest Ohio algae blooms were rushing through both Senate (**SB1**) and House (**HB61**). LWVO supported both bills as good first steps, but with reservations. We have made several suggestions for improvements. Senator Edna Brown's (D-Toledo) **SB16** also aims to fix Lake Erie but more sensibly defines manure as fertilizer and prohibits spreading it on frozen ground *statewide*. Apparently only the former two bills had traction. Sad, when we know what's needed. The budget (**HB64**) also contained language on waste disposal, which we continue to follow. The new 3rd millennial review of the budget, **SB293**, introduced by Troy Balderson, does not help, addressing instead the merger of the OH State Parks and an ODNR agency known as the Watercraft Division, perhaps saving \$ but not solving any issues facing the Great Lakes.

Other bills that we are watching have been submitted, mainly around the lead problems that are focused on Flint, MI, but also occur in Ohio (think old water connections, paint, diesel trucks). Only the shoreline topic has reached the state's Supreme Court and been resolved. When more come along we'll watch them. Nothing about brownfields or other issues that could use work has appeared as yet. The rest of the LU list thus far (more than last year but little real progress):

- SB1** GREAT LAKES-HARMFUL ALGAE--SIGNED BY GOVERNOR 4/02/2015; eff. 7/3/2015; this moved, with much hoopla, but so far, little effect.
- SB16** WATERSHEDS-FERTILIZER APPLICATION - by E. Brown, 2/10/2015, its 1st hearing
 - SB46** LAKE ERIE DRILLING BAN, introd. by Skindell & hasn't moved since 2/18/2015.
 - SB47** DEEP WELL BRINE INJECTION PROHIBITION - also by Skindell, hasn't moved since 2/18/2015.
- SB120** 3/10/2015 by Schiavoni – OIL-GAS LAW REVISION – REFERRED to a different cmte.
- SB269** 2/10/2015 by Schiavoni – PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM-LEAD CONTAMINATION – REFERRED
- SJR3** by Schiavoni 2/09/2015--FUND SEWER-WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – 1st hearing
 - HB8** OIL-GAS LAW -- introd. by Hagan 4/14/2015, but so far has only had its 1st hearing.
- HB101** HAB MITIGATION - introd. by Hall, 1st hearing only

HB190 introd. 11/18/2015 by Burkley & Brown - WIND FARM SETBACKS-COUNTY –
SUSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED

HB304 introd. 11/17/2015 by Leland & Stinziano – MUNICIPAL WATER RESERVOIR-BUFFERS – 1st
hearing only

HB422 introd by O’Brien & Patterson 1/20/2016 – INJECTION WELLS-PERMITS- REFERRED

HB468 introd by Bocchieri 2/23/2016—LEAD TESTING-WATER SYSTEMS- REFERRED

HJR5 introd by Lepore-Hagan & Smith 1/20/2016 – WATER-SEWER IMPROVEMENTS --
REFERRED

HR214 introd by Sheehy & Fedor 10/06/2015—LAKE ERIE-PHOSPHORUS AGREEMENT-- REFERRED

HB61 LAKE ERIE FERTILIZER-DREDGING, introd. by Buchy & Hall but hasn’t moved since
3/17/2015 – only its 1st hearing was reported

Regarding public transit, the ODOT director, Jerry Wray, said 27 counties have none, nor does
the department have the money for expansion, so for the next 10 years they will just concentrate
on maintenance rather than expansion (Hannah, 2/12/15).

Remember that if a bill hasn’t moved, it’s not likely to.

Message: What can we do? Keep letting your legislators know that the entire state needs to
prohibit winter application of fertilizer (manure) and that really the entire watershed needs the
same treatment.