



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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LWVO Testimony on
SB2 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS
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House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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The League of Women Voters of Ohio is pleased to support SB2. We are particularly happy to see bi-partisan legislation introduced so early in this session.

A major focus of SB2 is the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, which advises the Governor and the General Assembly. We agree with the sponsor that “the role of the Commission is to preserve Lake Erie’s natural resources and to protect the quality of its waters and ecosystem.” Among other tasks, the Commission issues policy reports.

SB2 contains sections that update of the statues governing the Commission. We do have one concern about these sections.

Six Directors of State Departments Currently serve on the Commission. The Governor appoints five public members to staggered three-year terms. Currently there are two public-member vacancies.

Terms of the public members will expire with the enactment of SB2. Terms of the six Directors will likely expire when a new administration takes office less than two years from now. To compound the turnover problem, initial terms of four of the five new public members will expire this year and next.

Significant turnover of Commission membership impacts institutional memory, a poor management practice. We recommend:

- (1) Retention/attrition practices that reflect the requirement for institutional memory.
- (2) The new appointees serve longer terms.

SB2 also contains additional drinking water protections above those enacted last year to inhibit lead and copper. We agree with this refinement of state law.

Finally SB2 contains needed new controls on the disposition of solid waste materials, which should result in reduced pollution.