

Tuesday 09 May 2017
Senate Bill 2 Proponent Testimony
Ohio House of Representatives Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Landis, Vice-Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, Senate Bill 2 Sponsor Senator Hite and members of the **Ohio House of Representatives Energy and Natural Resources Committee**, Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony with regard to Senate Bill 2.

By way of introduction, I am Phil Kabealo a life-long resident of Ohio (Except during military service). Other than my service in the Army, I have been employed by or owned private-sector businesses in Ohio and other parts of the country. These businesses were within the environmental sector of our economy and that experience gives me a somewhat different perspective along with great respect for the environmental regulatory community in Ohio. As a taxpayer and resident of Ohio - it is very encouraging to see Senator Hite's bill moving from the Ohio Senate to now be in front of the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

My belief is that the components of Senate Bill 2 are absolutely necessary, not only for protection of Ohio's environment, but also for simplifying and streamlining the regulatory processes. In particular and of significant importance are the provisions in SB-2 relating to construction and demolition debris disposal. These changes, brought forth in SB-2, are necessary tools for the Ohio-EPA to advance both economic and environmental aspects relative to their work in efficiently protecting Ohio's environment with regard to Construction and Demolition debris disposal.

The most crucial and in my opinion most important aspects of Senate Bill 2, and my focus today, are those sections of it that concern the Lake Erie pollution problem. No one can reasonably deny that the condition of Lake Erie is a disgrace and it has been long before any of us here today could have affected its decline to its present condition. I confess that I'm old enough to vividly remember the day the Cuyahoga River burst into flames – (June 22, 1969), as shocking as that was then - it wasn't the first time.

There is no doubt that the issues affecting the environmental quality of Lake Erie are extensive and difficult to manage. Now, however, the Ohio legislature can act with passage of SB-2 to give the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency the tools required to make a difference and actually improve the condition of Lake Erie.

With enactment of SB2 the private sector and the public sector - in comprehensive public-private-partnerships, can work to resolve Lake Erie's pollution problems to improve and protect Lake Erie. These actions, under the guidance and regulatory oversight of the Ohio EPA, will ensure that Ohio and its residents are protected and will continue to have access to the benefits associated with a well-managed environment in the water and on the watershed of Lake Erie – Particularly, as a source clean water.

SB2 addresses dredge beneficial-use, sewage and biowaste sludge management, along with substantial reduction of nutrient flow into Lake Erie and Ohio's surface waters. Properly managing, treating and processing these sources of pollution are crucial to millions of Ohio

residents and those others in the region. Drinking water and fresh water supplies that are now at risk and recently were not available are extremely important to the health and economic well-being of Ohio. Not long ago we all saw the pictures of green stuff instead of clean water at Toledo's water supply intake.

A key tool in that Lake Erie clean-up effort is the provisions set forth in SB2 for the beneficial-use of the dredge materials from Lake Erie. Beneficial-use of the dredge creates value and good paying, long-term jobs in Ohio. SB2's beneficial-use provisions mean that Ohio-EPA, working with public-private-partnership initiatives, can drastically reduce or eliminate the costs to taxpayers in attacking the Lake Erie pollution and cleaning up the polluted surface waters of Lake Erie and Ohio.

SB-2 properly, gives the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency the authority to tackle the host of contributory situations that have caused the serious decline of Lake Erie. The private sector can respond and bring advanced technology, highly efficient operational scenarios, and effective – sustainable solutions, without the burdens of cumbersome bureaucracies and exorbitant taxpayer-paid expenses to improve the communities, the state-wide environment, and Ohio's economy that are diminished by the tragically poor condition we now find with Lake Erie and other surface waters of Ohio.

As the thirteenth largest body of fresh water on the planet there is little doubt of Lake Erie's significance as a fresh water resource. The economic factors of Lake Erie make it a crucial component of Ohio's current and future economic stability and growth. Senate Bill 2's passage will ensure that future generations of Ohioans will have a better lake and greater benefit resulting from the legislative guidance and leadership that the Ohio legislature brought forward with SB2. There are tens of thousands of jobs, and billions of dollars of commerce that exist from a robust and healthy Lake Erie. We cannot afford to put that at risk.

Governor Kasich's February 2015 Executive Order (2015-02K) was the bold first step in recognizing our – Ohio's, responsibility and Senate Bill 2 is the necessary follow through to enable the actions necessary to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth by the Governor and legislature to clean up Lake Erie.

Due to the diligent efforts of the professional staff at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency we've come a long way from the day that the Cuyahoga River burst into flames in June of 1969. Senate Bill 2 gives the Ohio EPA director the tools necessary to continue the progress and make Lake Erie a "great" Lake, again. I urge you to give Senate Bill 2 your full support.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 2 to the Ohio House of Representatives Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Kabealo
Dublin, Ohio