



Testimony of Cleveland Water Alliance

The Ohio Senate

Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

December 3, 2024

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HCR 14, which urges Congress to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). My name is Bryan Stubbs, and I am the Executive Director and President of Cleveland Water Alliance (CWA). During my time leading CWA, we've worked to elevate the value of clean water in the Great Lakes region and drive the water economy's potential here in Ohio.

Established in 2014, CWA is a global leader in facilitating innovation for the water economy. Supported by a robust testbed infrastructure and world-class industry expertise, CWA leverages collaborative research and multi-sector partnerships to support market-driven innovation and sustainable solutions for regional and global water challenges.

CWA seeks to better utilize the Great Lakes Region's economic and job-creating potential while urging greater care of our most valuable natural asset. Through a collaboration of private and public sector leaders, CWA is a global leader in facilitating a freshwater economy, mobilizing over 300 industry-leading companies, research institutions, utilities, and maritime interests, as well as federal, state, and local government agencies. Since our founding, we've added over 300 annual net new jobs to regional water technology industries. These jobs range from entry-level utility operators to software, manufacturing, and infrastructure engineers. CWA has also invested over \$500,000 directly into early-stage innovations.

CWA has developed Lake Erie as the largest digitally connected freshwater body in the world, investing in over \$5M+ in infrastructure since 2022 and attracting the attention of agencies, institutions, and water technology companies from around the world. Supported by this robust infrastructure and expertise, CWA continues to expand its powerful impact by leveraging data accessibility and end-to-end solutions to spur innovation-driven impact.

Thanks to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, CWA is partnering with H2Ohio on a half a million-dollar nutrient reduction technology. By urging Congress to reauthorize the GLRI, we will ensure Ohio continues to build on this momentum by utilizing the Great Lakes' potential to address global water challenges and securing our region's long-term environmental health.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HCR 14 today. Together, we can continue to safeguard and leverage this natural resource for the benefit of current and future generations.