



February 22, 2017

**Port of Cleveland
Testimony in Support of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's
SB 2 (Senator Hite) before
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority ("Port of Cleveland") fully supports the adoption of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's ("Ohio EPA") proposals in Senate Bill 2, currently before you today. This legislation will protect the health and vitality of Lake Erie and Ohio's other sources of drinking water with additional language to encourage better use of dredged materials statewide.

Passage of this legislation will protect both our state's environment and its economy, and The Port of Cleveland welcomes the increased public policy focus on Lake Erie and the protection of our state's greatest natural resource – our Great Lake Erie. The Port of Cleveland shares the Ohio EPA's commitment to the critical importance of protecting and improving Ohio's water sources, and appreciates the value of the language in the bill which clarifies the safe and beneficial reuse of dredged material by providing a straightforward regulatory framework with defined criteria for classifying maritime sediments.

The Port of Cleveland has been a leader in the effort to ensure safe dredging that protects our water, wildlife, people, and jobs. The Port has also been innovative in exploring and adopting alternative uses for sediment that reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and limit environmental impact. The bill at hand will empower the Port of Cleveland to advance this effort by clarifying the State's permission to implement these safe, creative methods for dealing with sediment and keeping our waterways open for commerce.

A recent economic impact study of the Port and Northeast Ohio's maritime economy shows that this economic engine brings over 13-million tons of cargo through the Cleveland Harbor annually, resulting in \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity and nearly 20,000 jobs. With the adoption of the Ohio EPA's proposed legislation, the Port of Cleveland will be better positioned to be a global economic driver and green port on a Great Lake.