

From our letter to City Council concerning the Balanced Growth Plan:

The LWV Hudson board has reviewed the Brandywine Creek Watershed Balanced Growth Plan currently under consideration by the Hudson City Council (now adopted) and finds it to be consistent with the LWV Ohio positions on Natural Resources and the Great Lake Ecosystem. The League of Women Voters is a political non-partisan organization. While we do not support or oppose any political candidates, we do take position on issues after careful study and member consensus.

This plan promotes the LWVO Land Use Position by providing the authority and incentives for local governments to plan together regionally in areas such as land use planning, conservation reserves, zoning efforts and environmental impact assessments. Approval of this plan will give regional governments access to financial and technical assistance in protecting and improving the Brandywine Creek Watershed.

In addition, the growth plan incorporates many of the LWVO positions on the Great Lakes Ecosystem including “the attainment and maintenance of high water quality standards throughout the Great Lakes Basin, with emphasis on water pollution prevention”.

Specifically from the balanced growth plan: (p.v)

• FLOODPLAINS

Recommendation: Communities should conserve flood plains to accommodate excess flow, protect health and property. Community regulations need to maintain current flood plain maps and adequately protect floodplains from development to reduce future damages.

• WETLANDS

Recommendation: Wetland areas should be conserved as essential storage and filtration systems. Communities should adopt ample setback ordinances for all wetlands categories.

GOALS of THE BRANDYWINE CREEK BALANCED GROWTH INITIATIVE PLAN (p.2)

1. Preserve existing watershed features and system capacity to manage storm water runoff.
2. Restore / Enhance the watershed to improve storm water management.
3. Recommend best land use practices to avoid or minimize impacts from development.

From the e-news of Senator Rob Portman:

I saw an example of that in Toledo early in August where there was a water crisis; a drinking water ban for nearly 500,000 people resulting from toxins caused by harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie. This is a serious issue in the Great Lakes and many other freshwater lakes and reservoirs in Ohio and one I've been working on since my election to the Senate. I recently authored the [Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013](#), which improves the coordination and partnership between the federal agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency and local and state entities. Even in this time of divided government and gridlock, I was able to guide this legislation through the Senate and the House, and in June, President Obama signed it into law. For the first time ever, this legislation ensures federal agencies prioritize research, monitoring, and mitigation efforts of harmful algal blooms in fresh water bodies such as Lake Erie.

I am hopeful that my legislation will help to ensure that events like the one we saw in Toledo can become a thing of the past. Of course, for folks who were out of water during the recent crisis, they needed help immediately. So we loaded my pickup with bottled water from Canton where I was at other meetings, and headed to Toledo. When we arrived, I was moved by the hundreds of Red Cross and other volunteers who were doing what they could, no matter how small, for their friends and neighbors.

[Press Releases](#) July 01, 2014

[Portman Algae Bill Signed Into Law](#)

The Law Includes a New Emphasis on Protecting the Great Lakes from Harmful Algal Blooms

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio) announced that President Obama has signed into law his algae legislation, [the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013](#). *This legislation, authored by Portman and Senator Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) would reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) and Hypoxia Research and Control Act, which was first enacted in 1998 and reauthorized in 2004 and 2008 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note). For over a decade this program has served as the federal government's research and response framework for harmful algal blooms. Senator Portman negotiated a new Great Lakes section for the program that will ensure federal agencies prioritize monitoring and mitigation efforts on fresh water bodies such as Lake Erie.*

Last Saturday, Portman hosted a Lake Erie roundtable discussion at the Meinke Marina in Curtice, Ohio following a fishing trip on Lake Erie. The roundtable was attended by a coalition of conservation leaders, businesses, tourism industry officials, sportsmen and local residents who share Portman's interest in protecting the Great Lakes.

"This legislation takes critical steps toward protecting Lake Erie and Grand Lake St. Marys from harmful algae that has become an increasing problem for fresh water bodies in our state," said Portman. "For the first time, we will prioritize the protection of Ohio's fresh bodies of water, which is critical for our tourism and fishing industries. I'm pleased the President has signed this important bill into law, especially after visiting Lake Erie last weekend and meeting with local stakeholders."

Just recently, the Ohio EPA issued harmful algae warnings for Buckeye Lake in Columbus. This is the 4th consecutive summer that algae warnings have been issued for Buckeye Lake. \$700,000 has been spent by Ohio EPA over the last four years on efforts to reduce algae blooms at Buckeye Lake. In 2013, the city of Toledo was forced to spend \$3 million to protect the city's water supply from Lake Erie's harmful algae and Columbus spent \$723,000 to address an algae outbreak at Hoover Reservoir. It costs the city of Celina \$450,000 annually to combat algae in Grand Lakes St. Marys. According to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) report, U.S. seafood and tourism industries suffer annual losses of \$82 million due to economic impacts of HABs.

Portman was recently [named](#) Vice-Chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force.