



City of Cleveland  
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

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Office of the Mayor  
Cleveland City Hall  
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 202  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
216/664-3990 • Fax 216/420-8766  
www.cleveland-oh.gov

July 15, 2011

The Honorable John Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich:

Like you, I believe Lake Erie and its tributaries like the Cuyahoga River can be used as tools to drive economic development, support job creation and support tourism. However, these are tools that must be used responsibly and with an eye to the long-term impact of its use. Therefore, I am writing to urge you to veto House Bill 231 which does not adequately balance economic development with social development and environmental impact.

The Great Lakes Compact, which was designed to prevent a water crisis in the future, does require the State of Ohio to set limits on water use. But it also requires that those limits be responsible, sustainable, and support efficient use.

HB 231 does not meet these requirements. It does not consider the cumulative impact of withdrawal by multiple businesses and entities, opening Lake Erie and its watershed to potentially unlimited use. And, it opens the door to a potential large scale diversion of water to other regions. Without sustainable limits on water use, the water level and water quality will both decline and in turn, we will be eliminating the competitive advantage Lake Erie and its tributaries currently give Ohio.

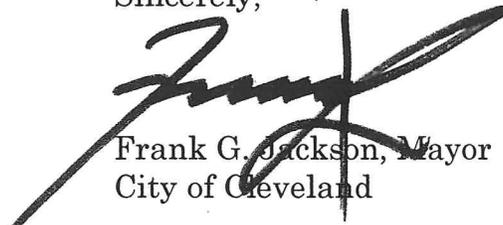
Lower water levels will lead to:

- Challenges for our shipping lanes on Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River;
- An increase in algae blooms and therefore an increase in natural toxins;
- A decrease in fish and wildlife habitat;
- A higher cost of water treatment; and
- A decrease in recreational revenues generated by fishing, boating and tourism.

HB 231 could also undermine existing businesses and water systems that already have water rights. The Cleveland Division of Water has ample capacity to support economic growth and already has been permitted to remove additional water from Lake Erie. HB 231 would allow companies to circumvent the existing permitted systems, like CWD, and would undermine our capacity to deliver clean water to our residential and commercial customers.

For these reasons, I urge you to veto HB 231. HB 231 is bad business for Lake Erie and all of Ohio. Its long-term negative impacts far outweigh any short-term gains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank", written over the typed name and title.

Frank G. Jackson, Mayor  
City of Cleveland