



**CLEAN WATER IS OUR RIGHT!**  
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For immediate release July 9, 2021

**STATEMENT BY LAKE ERIE ADVOCATES RE: CITY OF MAUMEE  
DUMPING SEWAGE**

A [Channel 11 news report](#) today revealed that the City of Maumee has been discharging up to 150 million gallons of untreated wastewater into the Maumee River, in violation of an agreement with the US EPA.

The following statement was released by Lake Erie Advocates today in response to that news.

“The City of Maumee has let down Lake Erie, the people who depend on it for their drinking water and the thousands of species of plants and animals who live there. The Channel 11 report indicates that an expensive ‘fix’ to this problem is underway. Lake Erie Advocates sympathizes with the Maumee water and sewer ratepayers who will have to pay \$100,000,000 over the next 30 years to upgrade their sewage treatment system

However, this issue needs to be put in context of what is really sickening Lake Erie.

According to [research conducted by LEA](#) last winter, the Bridgewater Dairy in Williams County, just one of hundreds of dairy factory ‘farms’ in our watershed, excretes as much Phosphorus and antibiotic-resistant e. coli bacteria every year as the population of *19 and a half Maumees* – assuming none of Maumee’s sewage went through the treatment plant!

Yes, Maumee needs to atone for its sins against Lake Erie and upgrade it’s sewage treatment plant. But even more importantly **we need to recognize that over 800 factory ‘farms’ in our watershed excrete an amount of Phosphorus equal to the human populations of Ohio, Indiana, Chicago and Atlanta and it is dumped untreated on fields that drain into Lake Erie.**

**It is time to ban factory ‘farms!’”**

Methodology for the above statement:

The Bridgewater Dairy in Williams County has 3,900 cows. If those cows follow the standard profile – 85% are wet (milking) and 15% are dry – they generate 667,621 pounds of Phosphorus annually. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average person excretes 2.50536 pounds of Phosphorus annually. The [population of Maumee](#), according to the 2019 U.S. census, is 13,669.