

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE**92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202**

July 25, 2019

Jerome Schad, Chair
Erie County Water Authority
295 Main Street, Suite 350
Buffalo, New York 14203

Re: Water Quality in Lake Erie and Algae Blooms

Dear Mr. Schad:

Recently, media accounts reported on the existence of an "algae bloom" in Lake Erie in the western part of the lake. One media account noted that "the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its research partners forecast that western Lake Erie will experience a significant harmful algal bloom this summer" and that "most of the rest of the lake will not be affected." NOAA said the largest blooms occurred in 2015, with a severity index of 10.5. One media account also noted that recently, a patch of suspected toxic algae was found on the surface of open Lake Erie water less than 10 miles off the shore of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Lake Erie's algae blooms are an annual threat to the health and drinking water of more than 11 million people who live on, around or drink or bathe in water from the lake. Most local governments in Erie County draw their potable water from Lake Erie, including the Erie County Water Authority, the largest provider of water outside of the City of Buffalo.

I am writing to request a response from the Water Authority concerning what preventative, proactive or planning measures have been undertaken by your agency to address potential algae blooms, should they appear in Lake Erie in and around the Erie County shoreline and/or water intakes.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Meyers", written in a cursive style.

Timothy Meyers
Chair, Energy and Environment Committee