

## **Ohio Leaders Support Beneficial Use of Toledo Harbor Dredge Material**

*Ohio EPA, Corps of Engineers Cooperation Will Keep Harbor Open to Commerce*

### **Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins**

Dredging to keep the Toledo Harbor and shipping channel at a depth that allows safe passage of the vessels that travel to us is critical. There has been a great deal of concern expressed regarding the practice of open lake disposal of lake dredging material; it is a concern I as mayor of the City of Toledo share. While the 401 water quality permit issued by the Ohio EPA will allow open lake disposal, it is noteworthy that for the first time this permit contains a requirement that the United States Army Corps of Engineers must work with local and state government to find alternatives to open lake dumping. We need to find a way to allow dredging but in a manner that has the least impact on our waterways.

### **Paul Pacholski, President of the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association**

We are 100 percent behind this proposal and we appreciate the quick work of the Ohio EPA and Governor John Kasich to move forward and initiate a plan for the beneficial use of the dredge material. Once the legislature approved the funding, the action was swift. And it's the first step forward in dealing with this massive problem. This is a big step toward a healthier ecology in the lake.

### **Gail Hesse, Executive Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission**

This is a great step by Ohio EPA in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers to find creative and innovative alternatives for open lake placement.

### **Paul Toth, President and CEO, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority**

We are excited about the State's commitment in working with the Army Corps of Engineers and The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority to keep the Port of Toledo fully dredged and open for business. This is important because the Port of Toledo provides 7,000 jobs and generates over \$381 million annually in direct business revenue in our region. We have been looking for ways to advance the projects recommended in the Toledo Harbor Sediment Management and Use Plan for quite some time and with the resources and cooperation of the State we can now put the projects into motion.