

DATE

Ohio State Rep. or Senator NAME

Address

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Dear Rep. or Sen. _____:

Earlier this year, the Ohio Farmers Union adopted several public policy proposals at its annual convention. As a member of OFU, I'm especially interested our family farm group's proposal for a cleaner Lake Erie.

While you may read the entire Special of Order of Business 2020-01 at ohfarmersunion.org, I want to express my support for two specific parts and encourage your support cleaner water in the watersheds feeding the western basin of Lake Erie.

First, we have proposed a moratorium on new permits for livestock CAFOs in the Maumee watershed. In lieu of a moratorium, we would support a census of the livestock in the watershed coupled with appropriate policies to limit the number of animals to the region's carrying capacity.

Finally, OFU has called upon the state of Ohio to limit the spreading of fertilizer – including manure – to the agronomic rate, especially in watersheds deemed impaired by the U.S. or state EPA.

Thank you for your time and attention to our issues. As the proprietor of a family-sized farm, I'm not saying that there isn't a place in agriculture for larger operations, but perhaps Ohio has allowed too many animals to be concentrated in one region.

Sincerely,