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### **Business leaders request action to protect Lake Erie from Harmful Algal Blooms**

Officials monitoring Lake Erie are projecting another year of harmful algal blooms, which continue to impact businesses and communities across the Great Lakes region. In addition to providing a primary source of drinking water for more than 11 million people, Lake Erie supports a tourism economy that generates an estimated \$15 billion each year, produces nearly \$2 billion in tax revenue, and supports more than 100,000 jobs.

Members of the [Great Lakes Business Network](#), which is a coalition of over 150 businesses working on Great Lakes protection, call on regional leadership to take immediate action to curb nutrient pollution and reduce harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes. Addressing this threat will require regional coordination among leadership from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Ontario to monitor progress toward the established 40 percent nutrient reduction goal and specific plans to accelerate progress toward meeting benchmarks should the need occur.

Business leaders from across the Great Lakes Region emphasize the ecological and economic devastation harmful algal blooms have caused in Lake Erie for more than a decade and that inaction is only making the problem worse.

Adam Esker, managing partner of Rivalry Brews in Cleveland, Ohio, said: “The Great Lakes are one of our greatest treasures and need to be protected and preserved for future generations. We encourage our regional leaders to work together and commit to a plan that will prevent these toxic algal blooms in Lake Erie to protect our communities, businesses and way of life.”

Jimmy Banish, chief of operations for The Bear Factory in Whitmore Lake, Mich., said: “The silver lining with COVID-19 is a lesson in how important our health is and this awareness needs to be extended to our environment as well. The health of our Great Lakes is at risk and we need to show the same type of attention and action to address threats like harmful algal blooms.”