

Ohio Marine Trades Association
and Government Advantage Group

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SEPTMBER 2024



Lake Erie Commission Coastal Resiliency Grants Available

The Ohio Lake Erie Commission has opened the application process for Coastal Resiliency Grants. According to the RFP, to be eligible for a grant of \$50-100k you must submit for projects in one of the following counties: Ashtabula, Lake, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, Lucas, or Sandusky. Non-government agencies can apply but must be a 501(c)(3) organization.

All details on this grant opportunity can be found [here](#). Applications are due to be submitted by noon on October 25, 2024.

Chamber Travel and Tourism Committee Meets

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce's travel and tourism committee met on September 18th. The committee was reminded about the [Travel and Tourism Summit](#) on October 30th at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. They have announced an impressive slate of lawmakers who will be speaking. All are encouraged to register and attend. The Committee also heard a presentation from Airbnb. The Chamber stated their support for Airbnb to collect/remit hotel and lodging taxes where required but is not in support of the bans on short-term rentals that have been proposed. Several local municipalities have enacted regulations and restrictions. There was a discussion on [SB 299](#) regarding the local government's authority to enact regulations on short-term rentals.

\$20 Million in Drilling Revenue Spending Moves Forward

On September 9, 2024, the Ohio Controlling Board approved \$20,000,000 in spending for ODNR that was generated from revenue from oil and gas leases. These funds will be used for construction and renovation projects at Salt Fork State Park. A more detailed breakdown of how the funds will be spent can be found [here](#).

Cleveland Sailing Center Planned

The City of Cleveland recently announced plans for a community sailing center. This multipurpose facility will introduce many in Cleveland and the surrounding areas to the joys of the water. You can read more about the plan [here](#).

ODNR Before the Sunset Review Committee

Every few years, there is a Sunset Review Committee formed to review all Ohio boards and commissions. The committee reviews these bodies and makes recommendations as to whether these boards still serve a purpose or should be sunset. Recently, the committee met to review many under ODNR's purview, including the Waterways Safety Council. All documents submitted to the committee can be viewed [here](#). OMTA is pleased to note that ODNR has recommended that the Waterways Safety Council be renewed. OMTA President Michelle Burke currently serves on this Council. Other bodies being reviewed under ODNR include all 15 wild, scenic, or recreational river area advisory councils and the Wildlife Council.

The Lake Erie Commission also went before the Committee at the same meeting at ODNR. Those submitted documents can also be found in the [provided link](#).

Water Safety Legislation

A bill was introduced recently that would require students to receive education in water safety. Under [House Bill 659](#), water safety means: “age-appropriate education intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of injury or drowning”. This educational information would be provided to students, via their parents, upon initial enrollment to the school.

Senate Boating Event Makes Splash

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to host 9 members of the Senate Republican caucus on a boat cruise to Put-In-Bay for a fundraising event. Launching from the Port Clinton Yacht Club on a picture-perfect, sunny day, attendees enjoyed 2 hours on the water. Participants got to see Middle Bass Island harbor, the state docks at Put-In-Bay, Gibraltar Island, and West Harbor. Some got to see an algae bloom firsthand, and some spotted a bald eagle! We got to highlight the importance and diversity of what Lake Erie boating has to offer. After the cruise members were invited to attend a reception at Mojito Bay.

This day wouldn't have been possible without our friends at Clemons Boats, Catawba Moorings, Manitowoc Marine, Pier 53, and South Shore Marine

The Boat Ohio PAC is an important part of OMTA's advocacy efforts, and this Lake Erie event was a great way to provide support for key Ohio lawmakers. There is no better way to experience the water than on a boat!