



**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Written Testimony of Marty McGann, Senior Vice President, Advocacy
Greater Cleveland Partnership
November 29, 2016**

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jones and members of the committee, my name is Marty McGann and I am the Senior Vice President for Advocacy at the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP). GCP is the largest chamber of commerce in the State of Ohio representing 8,500 small, mid-market and large companies across Northeast Ohio. Our mission is to mobilize private sector leadership, expertise and resources to create jobs and leverage investment to improve the economic vitality of Northeast Ohio. We do that in many ways, including playing a lead role in advocacy efforts to protect the quality of the Great Lakes. That is why we offer our support for Senate Bill 333, specifically as it relates to provisions that will govern the safe disposal and use of dredged material from federal navigation channels and connected maritime port facilities.

Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River provide significant social and economic benefit to our region and the State of Ohio. Both are important channels for international businesses that ship goods from Northeast Ohio to the rest of the world. Ensuing that the river is dredged appropriately and that dredged material is disposed of properly are critical to maintaining the economic strength of the industries that rely on these shipping channels.

GCP has long partnered with the Ohio Environmental Protect Agency and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority to advocate for consistent, timely dredging of the Cuyahoga River. We have also worked collectively to advocate against open lake disposal of dredged materials. Senate Bill 333 provides an enhanced regulatory framework to support these efforts, ensuring our waterways remain key attractions for quality of life, job creation and economic development.

We applaud the Administration for their work on this important piece of legislation and ask for your full support of its passage.