



*Let's Keep*

**STEVE**

**HAMBLEY**

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

## Check the Facts: Improving Water Quality in Ohio

### **MAKING WATER QUALITY IN OHIO A TOP PRIORITY**

- Enacted HB 512 – Expedites public notice of lead contamination in drinking water, making Ohio a leader in lead poisoning prevention. After testing a homeowner's water, the water system operator is now required to notify the homeowner of test results within two business days, rather than the previous 30-day requirement. Also requires in-depth public education for community residents to be completed within 30 days, rather than the previous 60-day requirement.
- Provides financial assistance (appropriated in HB 390) for communities and schools to address lead contamination. Previously, public water systems are able to utilize a low-interest loan from the Ohio EPA to make improvements to their infrastructure and perform water quality tests. Ohio EPA will work with eligible communities to fund long-term projects to upgrade drinking water plants and replace lead service lines that pose a public risk. Provides assistance to public schools to identify and mitigate sources of lead in the school's drinking water. Extends Ohio EPA loan financing for various water infrastructure projects for communities to ensure customers have affordable and quality drinking water.
- Enacted SB 1—Bans spreading manure and fertilizer on frozen, snowcovered or saturated ground in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Allows ODNR to monitor and enforce water runoff through civil penalties. Restricts open lake disposal of dredge material. Establishes a Coordinator of Harmful Algae Management and Response to coordinate prevention and response activities for toxic algae issues.
- Proposed HB 297 – (cosponsor) which authorizes a refundable income tax credit for current livestock owners who invest in a manure storage or treatment facility or acquire manure application equipment or manure handling and transportation equipment.
- Enacted Capital Budget Bill - SB 310 which appropriated \$7.4 million to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Water Quality Equipment and Projects, to the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio Conservation Program \$75 million, and \$2.75 million to the Department of Natural Resources for Wastewater/Water Systems Upgrades.