



City of Lima, Ohio

50 Town Square Lima, Ohio 45801-4900
419/228-5462 Fax 419/221-5199 www.cityhall.lima.oh.us

David J. Berger, Mayor

News Release – April 23, 2013

Lima Mayor David Berger traveled to Washington, DC today to accept the 2013 National Environmental Achievement Award for Local Public Service from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). In their letter announcing the award, NACWA stated that the award is being given to Mayor Berger for “leadership in advocating for regulatory prioritization and new approaches to Clean Water Act implementation” and for “dedication to ensuring a healthy, sustainable environment.”

Below is the text of Mayor Berger’s remarks being made at the award presentation, scheduled to occur at a noon luncheon held at the Washington Marriott Hotel:

“I want to thank NACWA for this recognition. I receive it on behalf of the entire team of the City of Lima’s water professionals, engineers and attorneys who have been engaged for over a decade in working to craft a responsible and affordable approach to our water related environmental obligations.

Along with the US Conference of Mayors, we have applauded the USEPA’s new Integrated Planning policy because we see it as a serious opportunity to creatively pursue, which we are doing now. At the same time, in our experience over the last decade, in our conversations with other cities, and in hearing agency representatives on repeated occasions, we believe that there needs to be a legislative fix for a number of flaws in the Clean Water Act.

Thus, our team has been drafting a bill that we are now sharing with other communities, soliciting additional feedback from their experience. We have put our draft up on the City of Lima’s website (www.cityhall.lima.oh.us) and we encourage you to download it and provide us with your insights from your city’s perspective. I would like to hear from you in the next couple of weeks, as I am in the process of drafting a resolution for the US Conference of Mayors formally requesting the organization’s support for the ideas that will be in the final draft.

Again, I thank you for your recognition, but the job is not yet done. Cities, districts, other municipal entities, and regional systems need to work together to obtain from the federal government a new partnership that provides both the resources and relief that are necessary to successfully meet our water related environmental obligations.”

###

