OHIO COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
POLICY 19 – LAKE ERIE PORTS

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF OHIO TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE FOR MARITIME COMMERCE AND RELATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE LAKE ERIE SHORE BY:

A. PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO, AND ASSISTING IN THE PROCUREMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR PORT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PORT AUTHORITIES THAT HAVE THE POWERS TO PLAN, IMPROVE, ACQUIRE, ENLARGE, OPERATE, MAINTAIN AND FINANCE PORT ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS; AND

B. ENCOURAGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PORT FACILITY AND EXPANSION MASTER PLANS AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THROUGH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

Authorities and Administration

In Ohio, any municipality, township, county or combination of such, may create a port authority (O.R.C. 4582.22). A municipality shall act by ordinance; a township shall act by resolution of the township trustees, and a county shall act by resolution of the county commission in authorizing the creation of a port authority. Port authorities shall be governed by a board of directors (O.R.C. 4582.27). The jurisdiction of a port authority shall include all of the territory of the political subdivision or subdivisions creating it, provided that the same area is not included in more than one port authority.

A. The State of Ohio has developed a port assistance program for Ohio's Lake Erie ports. Grants are available through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Division of Transportation Assistance, to assist port authorities in port planning, feasibility studies and improvement projects. These planning and feasibility studies should be coordinated with the affected local communities and should reflect local comprehensive planning and zoning regulations, where applicable. ODOT also provides technical assistance to port authorities in obtaining financial assistance for port development and expansion from other state and federal agencies.

B. Ports are encouraged to undertake planning studies that provide public access points or recreation areas within the harbors as well as studies on the compatibility of recreational development and commercial facilities and traffic. This consideration increases public awareness and support for the ports and the important role they play in the local, regional and state economy.