



## NEWS RELEASE

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**Cuyahoga River advisory group says Corps of Engineers should direct IKEA development elsewhere to avoid negative impact on major wetland**

CONTACT:  
Jennifer Grieser, Chair  
AOC Advisory Committee  
info@cuyahogaaoc.org  
440-253-2163 ofc  
216-372-2516 cell

(Cleveland, Ohio)

On August 11, 2015, the stakeholder group for the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern sent a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers recommending denial of IKEA's application for a permit to build on more than 15 acres of forested wetland in the City of Brooklyn, citing permanent damage to one of the last and largest wetlands in the Big Creek watershed.

The Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC) Advisory Committee is asking that the Corps deny the permit because it would replace almost half the 35-acre building site with new impervious surface, adding to flooding problems in the area, degrading water quality in Big Creek and the Cuyahoga River, and eliminating a range of services that this wetland provides to the environmental quality of the region.

The group also contends that such a permit would contradict State of Ohio water quality guidance, Big Creek's state-approved Balanced Growth Plan, and IKEA's own vision, stated on its website, that includes "doing what we can to help create a world where we take better care of the environment, the earth's resources, and each other."

In the letter the Committee asks the Corps to hold a public hearing, and offers to work with IKEA to identify a redevelopment opportunity within the City of Brooklyn "that produces less environmental harm and helps the AOC meet its federal obligations of delisting the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern."

The Cuyahoga River Area of Concern Advisory Committee (formerly the Remedial Action Plan/RAP) is the community-based organization of 25 stakeholders representing governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, watershed stewardship groups, and members of the public, responsible for directing efforts to remove the lower 46 miles of the Cuyahoga River from the federally-designated list of watersheds contributing to the degradation of the Great Lakes.

For more information, the full letter, and supporting documentation, please see [www.cuyahogaaoc.org](http://www.cuyahogaaoc.org).

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