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# Kasich kills Great Lakes water bill

## From staff and wire reports

COLUMBUS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich on Friday vetoed a controversial bill that would have allowed Ohio factories to pull more water from Lake Erie. Kasich, a first-term Republican, said in a statement he vetoed the bill because portions of it must be improved.

"Namely, Ohio's legislation lacks clear standards for conservation and withdrawals and does not allow for sufficient groundwater feeding into the lake," said.

The bill proposed to allow businesses to take an average of 5 million gallons of water a day from Lake Erie in a 90-day period.

But environmental groups — and former Republican Govs. Bob Taft and George Voinovich — said the legislation would harm the Great Lakes.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Thursday expressed concern with the bill, saying there could be legal action if it passed.

The bill's supporters wanted to allow businesses to increase their water use, mainly in an effort to bring economic development to Cleveland, Toledo and Sandusky.

State Rep. Dennis Murray Jr., D-Sandusky, said he wasn't convinced Kasich would veto the bill.

So he was surprised at Friday's development.

The bill's threat to the Great Lakes came from businesses that worked with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, which was a strong supporter.

The bill's proponents took advantage of legislators who were focused on the budget and didn't have time to study the bill.

"The Ohio Chamber of Commerce tried to get this passed, but Kasich called them out," Murray said. "I am just pleased that he did."

The bill's opponents led a worthy fight as they sought to protect the health of the Great Lakes, Murray said.

"The veto was a very important development for our area," he said.