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July 17, 2012

The Honorable Lana Pollack
U.S. Section Chair
International Joint Commission
200 L. Street, NW, Suite 615
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Ms. Pollack:

I am writing on behalf of the many landowners, officials, and communities along Lake Ontario who reject the proposed "Bv7" water level regulations on Lake Ontario. This ill-advised plan has raised serious concerns along the lake's southern shore over projected losses of property and property values, as well as diminished recreational and economic opportunities.

I recognize that a vibrant ecosystem is essential to the continued health of Western New York's residents and economy. While I appreciate the desire to enhance plant diversity on Lake Ontario's shores, we cannot afford to do so at the cost of those very shores. As drafted, Plan Bv7 threatens to exacerbate flooding and erosion across northern Niagara, Orleans, and Monroe Counties and cost Western New York land owners and local governments millions of dollars.

The people of the United States and Canada need a balanced approach to Lake Ontario water management that has consensus from all affected stakeholders and communities. As I speak with my constituents about this issue, it is increasingly evident that local consent is lacking in Western New York. Thus, I request that the Commission work with my office, the State of New York, and the people of Niagara, Orleans, and Monroe Counties to revise this proposal and better protect the rights of residents along Lake Ontario's southern shore.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress