



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

August 10, 2017

Commissioner Lana Pollock  
U.S. Chair  
International Joint Commission  
1717 H Street NW, Suite 801  
Washington, DC 20006

Commissioner Gordon Walker  
Canadian Chair  
International Joint Commission  
234 Laurier Avenue West  
22nd Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

Dear Commissioners Pollack and Walker:

As New York State Legislators representing communities along Lake Ontario, we are deeply concerned about the International Joint Commission's ("IJC") decision to reduce outflows while Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway remain at historic high levels.

Since the beginning of April, lakefront communities have been struggling with substantial property damage and flooding. As a result of higher lake levels, property owners, businesses and municipalities along the shoreline have incurred millions in damages. The IJC's recent decision to reduce outflows will further exacerbate this current crisis. Since the outflow change, our offices have heard from many constituents and businesses that have sustained further damages as a result of the recent storms where 10-foot waves pummeled communities in our district.

It is our understanding that the decision to reduce outflows was primarily based on shipping and recreational boating concerns downstream. We recognize that there are many stakeholders with varying interests in the management of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway and that, in itself, can be a challenge to regulate. With that being said however, many of the constituents we represent feel that their challenges and the problems they are encountering are not being fully considered when determining the lake levels. In addition to significant financial damages being incurred, there are serious safety, health and environmental problems occurring as a result of high lake levels and flooding.

Moving forward, we ask the IJC to reevaluate its decision to reduce outflows. Additionally, we would welcome the opportunity for the IJC to hold public sessions in our Assembly Districts to discuss the impact of this year's water levels in shoreline communities.

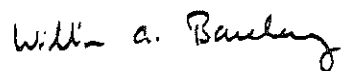
Commissioners Pollack and Walker

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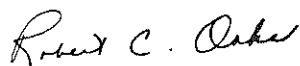
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We believe the information gained from such meetings could provide valuable insight for future mitigation and response to high water levels. Moreover, it could help bring about long-term solutions to prevent the widespread destruction that is being experienced now from reoccurring in the future.

Very truly yours,



William A. Barclay  
Member of Assembly  
120<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



Robert C. Oaks  
Member of Assembly  
130<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

WAB/jc

cc: Frank Bevacqua