

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE  
48TH DISTRICT  
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES**

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AND INNOVATION

August 10, 2017

Lana Pollack  
U.S. Chair  
International Joint Commission  
2000 L Street, NW  
Suite # 615  
Washington, D.C. 20440

Gordon Walker  
Canadian Chair  
International Joint Commission  
234 Laurier Avenue West  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ont. K1P 6K6

Dear Commissioners Pollack and Walker:

I am deeply concerned about the International Joint Commission's recent decision to lessen the amount of water being removed from Lake Ontario.

As the only New York State Senator who represents residents of both the upper St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, I have seen firsthand the damage still occurring from Lake Ontario's historic high waters. High winds and summer storms on the lake continue to send waves wreaking havoc on shoreline homes, properties and businesses.

I acknowledge the action taken by the IJC thus far to help lower waters levels in recent weeks. However, floodwaters remain at historic highs.

**REPLY TO:**  **ALBANY OFFICE:** ROOM 412 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (518) 455-3438  
 **JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE:** 317 WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM 418, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601 (315) 782-3418  
 **OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE:** 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET, FIRST FLOOR, OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126 (315) 342-2057  
 **ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE:** 330 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669 (315) 393-3024

**E-MAIL:** RITCHIE@NYSENATE.GOV

**WEBSITE:** RITCHIE.NYSENATE.GOV



The IJC and the International Board of Control need to recognize that during this unprecedented crisis, our priority must be with the thousands of shoreline property owners who have suffered and continue to suffer from these damaging high water levels.

Over the past two months, I have visited families whose lives have been turned upside down from this flooding. I have held four public sessions across the region where numerous families have told me about the millions of dollars in damage they have suffered and the problems they are still facing as they wait for the water to return to its normal levels. The IJC has at its hands the ability to prevent further damage, especially from next winter's ice and spring melt.

The IJC is in a unique position and empowered to provide immediate, sustained and impactful relief on homeowners, businesses and communities that are struggling to recover. It's time to be proactive to prevent a similar problem again next year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Ritchie". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops for the letters "P" and "R".

Patty Ritchie  
State Senator

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