



June 2012

Governor Andrew Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Your leadership in helping communities across the state respond and recover from natural disasters has been outstanding, and your response to last summer's tropical storm demonstrates your firsthand understanding of the disastrous results of flooding in low-level areas. We respectfully request your help in preventing similar destructive flooding from occurring in our communities along the southern shores of Lake Ontario.

Lake Ontario is a tremendous natural resource, but proposed policy changes in allowable lake levels will have a devastating impact on the economy of New York State.

As the New York State Legislators representing the many communities that border Lake Ontario, we are writing to alert you to the disastrous impact that the International Joint Commission's (IJC) current plan to regulate water levels of the Lake would have on our local property taxpayers, their businesses and the local economy.

The IJC's plan BV7 recommends radical changes in the manner the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River water levels are regulated, including a lack of any controls on high or low water levels. The sustained high levels of water will result in drastically increased erosion damage to shoreline and riparian property along Lake Ontario, as well as to local sewer systems, roads and public parks. The policy changes suggested during periods of high water could also submerge the main business and recreation districts in low lying communities like the Village of Sodus Point. Extreme low water levels in the BV7 plan will result in the crippling loss of business and recreational opportunities.

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The IJC's study is strongly biased against the residents and businesses along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and includes no provisions to mitigate the negative impact the new water regulations will have on these communities. While the IJC's study assesses the erosion damage that will result to property along the St. Lawrence River, it does not report on the tens of millions of dollars in anticipated costs for the areas on the Lake Ontario shoreline, nor on the damage that would result to public infrastructure in the region.

In addition, the new water levels recommended by the IJC lack an adequate basis in science. Several environmental scientists who were involved in the IJC's study have stated that the extreme high water levels that will be created by the BV7 plan are not necessary to restore area wetland habitats. A special panel of the National Research Council also concluded that the scientific work done by the Commission is insufficient and does not justify the drastic changes proposed in the BV7 plan.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to join with us in urging the IJC to halt any action on the lake level regulation plan until 1) a more thorough assessment is completed on the impact of the proposed BV7 plan to the south shore of Lake Ontario; and 2) an agreement is reached between the State and federal government on who will provide mitigation funds for the resulting losses to those residents, businesses and communities which will assuredly be negatively impacted.

Your immediate attention to this critically important issue is needed and will be deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Oaks,
Assemblyman, 128th District




Michael F. Nozzolio,
Senator, 54th District

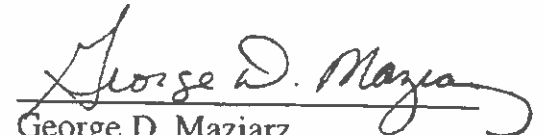


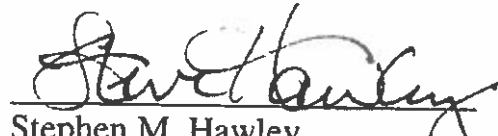
William A. Barclay
Assemblyman, 124th District

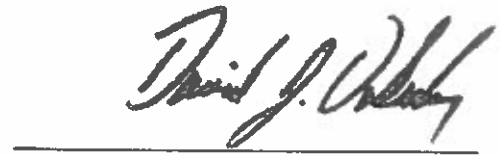


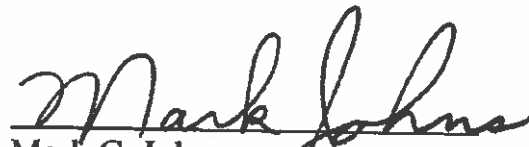
James S. Alesi
Senator, 55th District

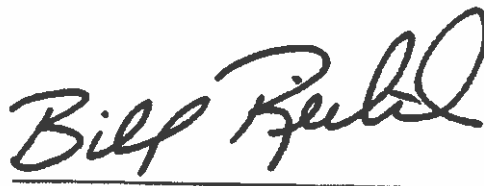

Jane L. Corwin
Assemblywoman, 142nd District

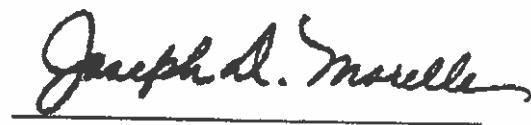

George D. Maziarz
Senator, 62nd District


Stephen M. Hawley
Assemblyman, 139th District


David J. Valesky
Senator, 49th District


Mark C. Johns
Assemblyman, 135th District


William D. Reilich
Assemblyman, 134th District


Joseph D. Morelle
Assemblyman, 132nd District