



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

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

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**MEMBER**  
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON  
RURAL RESOURCES

January 13, 2012

Hon. Lana Pollack  
US Chair  
International Joint Commission  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite #615  
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Commissioner Pollack:

After more than a decade of trying to develop a plan that takes into consideration the needs of shoreline property owners, boaters, commercial shippers and the environment, it's my understanding that the International Joint Commission (IJC) has developed a new compromise water regulatory plan that appears to have gained widespread support from a large number of groups that have a stake in the future of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

At a recent meeting of the newly formed International Border Caucus that I formed with Ontario Senator Robert Runciman, we both agreed that it is important to both our nations that we find an acceptable alternative to the current plan developed in the 1950s—and that we implement that plan quickly.

I commend you and your staff for the leadership you have shown in working with a wide variety of stakeholders to develop what appears to be an acceptable compromise plan that will address many of the historic problems caused by the existing plan developed in the 1950s.

The new plan appears to have gained the support of communities and interested groups from Buffalo and Rochester, as well as St. Lawrence River groups that traditionally have had conflicting goals.

While I have not yet had the opportunity to review the complete plan, I have been hearing from groups like Save The River, Ducks Unlimited, the Lake Ontario Fisheries Coalition, the International Water Levels Coalition, Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon Association, Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper, Trout Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon New York, Sierra Club, Great Lakes United, the Nature Conservancy, Environmental Advocates of New York, and Citizens Campaign for the Environment, each of which has offered strong support for what's become known as Plan BV7.

I also am advised that the new plan protects the interests of our important Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and Seaway shipping industry, but have some concerns that representatives of our ports in Oswego and Ogdensburg may not be aware of the specifics of how the plan would impact their operations.

**REPLY TO:** ☐ **ALBANY OFFICE:** ROOM 815 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](mailto:RITCHIE@NYSENATE.GOV)

**WEBSITE:** [WWW.RITCHIE.NYSENATE.GOV](http://WWW.RITCHIE.NYSENATE.GOV)



The Port of Oswego, for example, serves nearly 120 vessels a year, moving over a million tons of commodities like fertilizer, cement, corn, soybean, wheat, salt, aluminum, petroleum products and even nuclear components and windmill parts. Hundreds of businesses, and many jobs would be affected by any interruption in the port's operations.

I would be pleased to organize a meeting with your staff, other interested parties and representatives of the ports to review how the plan would affect these very important economic engines.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Ritchie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patty" and last name "Ritchie" clearly distinguishable.

Patty Ritchie  
State Senator

cc: Hon. Joseph Martens, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation  
Senator Robert Runciman  
International Water Levels Coalition