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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

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April 26, 2017

Hon. Basil Seggos
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

We are writing to seek your immediate assistance regarding the rising water levels and severe erosion occurring along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

A State of Emergency went into effect in Niagara and Orleans counties on Thursday, April 20 and local officials have warned residents and boaters to stay 500 feet away from the shoreline, beyond the typical 100-foot rule. The water levels are currently 12 to 19 inches higher than normal, with dire predictions that lake levels have yet to crest. The effects will devastate our communities. Residents will be forced out of their homes. Businesses will have to close. Municipal infrastructure will be overwhelmed. The fishing and tourism industry will also suffer.

I believe the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has a prominent role to play in relief to affected communities. While erosion and flooding are nothing new, they will continue to worsen due to federal and state policies. The International Joint Commission's Plan 2014 will aggravate flooding and erosion along the shore as less water is released from Lake Ontario. We have received notice from numerous residents and businesses who have attempted to proactively protect their home and properties by building out, but have been stymied by a lack of DEC permits. I hope the state – and your department, in particular – can understand the urgency of the situation, remove burdensome obstacles, and help our communities to protect our homes and businesses.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this urgent request and please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert G. Ortt', written in a cursive style.

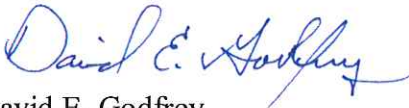
Robert G. Ortt
State Senator, 62nd District



John Syracuse
Niagara County Legislator, 14th District



Clyde L. Burmaster
Niagara County Legislator, 1st District



David E. Godfrey
Niagara County Legislator, 10th District



Wm. Keith McNall, Chairman
Niagara County Legislator, 13th District