

County Legislature formally requests rejection of Plan 2014

The Cayuga County Legislature approved a resolution at its monthly meeting Tuesday night asking the International Joint Commission to reject the Plan

> 2014 proposal that would allow for Lake Ontario water levels to
> fluctuate to the highest numbers allowed in 50 years.

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> The 15 legislators unanimously approved a resolution officially
> requesting that the entire proposal be rejected on the grounds that a
> change in water levels would result in significant damage to
> properties along the shore of the lake. Plan 2014 was introduced as a
> new way to regulate water levels of Lake Ontario and the northern part
> of the St. Lawrence River, but concern has risen recently about
> flooding and erosion that could occur if water levels exceed the regulations
that are currently in place.

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> Residents and local governments have voiced concern that higher water
> levels would affect tourism to the area, as the resolution states.
> Fishing and boating across the Lake Ontario region is estimated to
> bring in about \$94 million per year in revenue and local officials
> believe that constant fluctuation in water levels will hurt the industry.

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> "Plan 2014 further hinders boating access and when combined with the
> protracted absence of federal funding for maintenance dredging ...
> will cause significant and measurable negative financial impacts to
> the local and regional economy," the resolution says.

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> State Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-Fayette, has also spoken out against
> the proposal, arguing that increased water levels in Lake Ontario will
> drastically increase damage to the shoreline of an area so heavily
> reliant on the body of water for many different reasons.

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> "It will create problems in our local water and sewage treatment plans,"
> said Nozzolio in a statement Tuesday. "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 and other towns and villages along the Lake Ontario shoreline."

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> The Legislature's resolution not only asks for rejection of Plan 2014,
> but also requests that a moratorium be placed on the development of
> any future legislation that would modify water levels on the lake
> until a thorough analysis can be completed.

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> Nozzolio said he also supports a moratorium and said he believes more
> review is needed in order to keep the impact on the surrounding areas
> as little as possible.

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> "I remain strongly opposed to the IJC's proposed plan to regulate the
> water levels along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence Seaway," he said
> in a statement. "I urge the IJC to scrap its current plan and start
> again using the information and personal testimony from the

> individuals and business owners who live and work in the areas most affected by
this plan."

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