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August 19, 2013

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

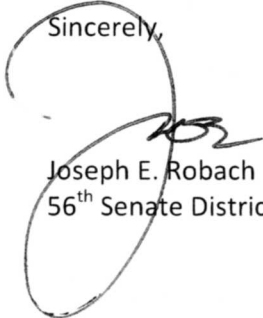
Over the past few months, my staff and I have met with various groups and constituents regarding recommendations by the International Joint Commission (IJC) in regards to their new plan, 2014, and how it will regulate the flows and levels of the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River system. They, and I, share a concern that the proposed changes to the method of regulating flows and levels will result in tremendous and irreversible damage to the South Shore of Lake Ontario.

From the Niagara River to Oswego County, there are over 10,000 property parcels assessed at a value of over \$3.7 billion, including almost 3,000 alone in Monroe County. Please see the attached document showing the economic breakdown of these land parcels along the South Shore. By allowing the lake levels to follow a more natural pattern, there will be higher highs and lower lows, resulting in a potential for exceptionally high amount of damage to these 10,000 plus properties. These parcels represent approximately \$148 million in tax revenue for local municipalities along the lake shore. Furthermore, much of the preventive technology to protect properties from environmental damage is either cost prohibitive for middle class New Yorkers or ineffective due to the pure force of lake waters. In a disaster situation along the South, the threat of damage not just to property but to the lives of residents will increase exponentially.

I respectfully urge you and your administration to stand with me, many of my colleagues in government and most importantly, thousands of New Yorkers in opposition to the International Joint Commission's Plan 2014. Furthermore, I recommend that you come to the Western Monroe County shoreline to see firsthand the potential damage any change in lake level management would have and meet with the South Shore riparians to hear their passionate and fervent opposition to this plan

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important issue and if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,


Joseph E. Robach
56th Senate District

Enclosed
JER:jj

Best regards!