

# LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

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Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation of Lake Ontario  
Beaches and Riparian Property

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In this issue:

- **The Fight Continues**
  - **Federal Representative Contacts**
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## Collins Right to Oppose Plan for Lake Ontario

Published in Buffalo News December 30, 2016

*Shortened for publication*

Recently, the Buffalo News took Congressman Collins to task for his efforts to stop Plan 2014 from implementation by the International Joint Commission (IJC). By the IJC's own admission, this plan will cause \$2 million - \$3 million in annual damages to the six counties along the south shore of Lake Ontario and the recreational boating industry. At the same time, this plan will provide millions of dollars of benefits to the hydropower and commercial navigation entities.

As members of the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (LORA) as well as former members of the IJC's Lake Ontario- St. Lawrence River Study (LOSL), we thank Congressman Collins for his help. We have special insight regarding this damaging plan. While mitigation of any damages prior to plan adoption was a guideline for the study, the IJC has avoided this tenet by "spinning" the plan as providing a "loss of benefits".

The IJC cites that this plan will improve the wetland environment. The IJC believes that the only way this can be achieved is through changing water levels. There are many sources which refute the study's findings including a peer review done under the auspices of the study by the prestigious National Research Council.

The Congressman understands that the damages that will occur will be bore by not only the shoreline residents but by all county residents. With the exception of Monroe County, the six remaining counties have a significant portion of their tax base and therefore tax receipts located along the shore. The loss of this tax base will affect all of the counties functions and all the residents' taxes.

Dr. Daniel Barletta  
Anthony McKenna, P.E.  
LORA members  
Former LOSL study members

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**Congresswoman Slaughter** (Monroe County)  
Local Office Telephone #585-232-4850  
Washington DC Telephone #202- 225-3615 Address:

**Address:**

3120 Federal Building 100 State Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

**Email:** [katie.lashomb@mail.house.gov](mailto:katie.lashomb@mail.house.gov)

**Congressman Chris Collins**  
(West of Monroe County to Niagara River)  
Local Office Telephone # 716 -634-2324  
Washington DC Telephone # 202-225-5265

**Address:**

2813 Wehrle Drive  
Suite 13  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**Email:** [Michael.Kracker@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.Kracker@mail.house.gov)

**Senator Chuck Schumer**

**Rochester Office**

100 State Street, Room 3040  
Rochester, NY 14614  
Phone: 585-263-5866  
Fax: 585-263-3173

**Email:** [Chris\\_Zeltmann@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:Chris_Zeltmann@schumer.senate.gov)

**Congressman John Katko**

**Address:**

13 W. Oneida St., 2nd Floor  
Oswego, NY 13126

**Email:** [bdoran@johnkatkoforcongress.com](mailto:bdoran@johnkatkoforcongress.com)

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<http://www.loranet.org/> and <http://www.loranet.org/levelerarchive/pastissues.htm>