

LEVELER

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

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The Fight Continues- Congressmen Katko and Collins Have Our Back-Where is Congresswoman Slaughter?

Katko, Collins urge Trump to reverse decision on Lake Ontario management plan

Robert Harding robert.harding@lee.net The Citizen-AuburnPub.com Jan 19, 2017

A pair of Republican congressmen are asking President-elect Donald Trump's transition team to review and reverse the International Joint Commission's decision to adopt Plan 2014, which sets a new strategy for managing Lake Ontario water levels.

U.S. Reps. Chris Collins and John Katko sent a letter to Vice President-elect Mike Pence, who's leading Trump's transition team, requesting another look at Plan 2014.

"As part of President Obama's legacy building effort, his administration swiftly and suspiciously passed a plan to regulate Lake Ontario's water levels after it had been stagnant for years," the congressmen wrote. "This plan, known as Plan 2014, will cause millions of dollars in damage to properties, businesses and communities along Lake Ontario's southern shoreline."

Collins, R-Clarence, and Katko, R-Camillus, represent counties along the Lake Ontario shoreline and have been critics of Plan 2014, which was adopted in December.

The International Joint Commission, which consists of members from the U.S. and Canada, signed Plan 2014 last month. The decision followed a 16-year review of the water level regulations.

Proponents say it will benefit the environment and boost tourism in communities along Lake Ontario. But critics, mainly those who live on the lake's southern shore, think it will do more harm than good.

At the time of the plan's signing, Canadian Section Chair Gordon Walker said there was no way for opponents to appeal the IJC's decision.

"The moment it is signed it is in effect," Walker said in December. "At that point in time it is done and over with."

But Collins and Katko hope that's not the case.

In the letter sent to Pence, the congressmen blasted the Obama administration's approval of Plan 2014 as a "midnight action" focused more on the outgoing president's legacy than on the impacts it would have for those who live along Lake Ontario's southern shore.

"This plan should not move forward until a careful, detailed analysis has been conducted on the economic impact it would have, and any negative effects mitigated," they wrote.

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