

# LEVELER

**E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance**

**Issue 63      February 1, 2017**

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

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**The following letter have been hand delivered to President Trump  
by our two Congressmen, Collins and Katko as well as being delivered today at the White  
House**

January 30, 2017

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Reversing International Joint Commission Plan 2014

Dear Mr. President:

We are the Directors of the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance, a *grassroots public advocacy group for the protection, restoration and conservation of Lake Ontario beaches and riparian property in the six counties along the south shore of Lake Ontario.*

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to take action to help reverse the enactment of a regulation plan recently approved between the United States and Canada.

On December 8, 2016, a new regulation plan (Plan 2014) was approved by former President Obama's State Department that will adversely affect those living or owning property on the south shore of Lake Ontario. This new regulation supersedes a regulation plan that has been in operation for over fifty years and had been used by public and private property owners with regard to building infrastructure such as roads, sewers, break-walls and other shoreline protection systems. Plan 2014 allows for longer durations and greater variability in high and low water levels.

This new plan will have a range of about five feet, while the old plan had a range of about four feet. At first glance, a foot in elevation might not seem a concern. Yet, when taking into consideration the previously mentioned reliance on existing water levels by residents, businesses and municipalities, these new conditions will set the stage for very large man-made disasters along the south shore of Lake Ontario, running from the Niagara River eastward the length of six counties. The impact affects

more than 10,000 property parcels having an assessed value exceeding 3.7 billion dollars and generating 148 million dollars in tax revenue.

The International Joint Commission (IJC), whose U.S appointees were selected by former President Obama, has made recommendations that do not fairly consider all the impacts. Indeed, the IJC has labelled the damages as minimal, going so far as to call them “a reduction in benefits”, and thus negating the requirement of mitigation of damages. The real numbers will be in the hundreds of millions when damage does occur.

While we know that you are and will be inundated with opportunities to correct the errors of the past administration, our hope is that you will act to review this new regulation plan and help to reverse it before it is too late.

Plan 2014 is a bad deal for the USA. Non-elected bureaucrats, who have ignored and/or don't care about the effects, agreed upon it. It was based on environmental opinions that disregard the rights of human beings. All damages resulting from Plan 2014 will be borne by the USA, while Canada has refused to incur any damages.

While there was very strong local opposition, the views of local U.S. politicians and the interests of their constituents have been ignored. This is not “America First”, but a “Lame Duck Cheap Shot” by the former Obama administration that could destroy the economies and interests of six counties in Upstate New York. The enactment of this regulation was a last-minute mid-night approval by U.S. and Canadian officials having no understanding of ramifications.

In the interests of tens of thousands of constituents who voted for you in Upstate New York, we sincerely ask that you assist us in supporting our interest to stop this horrible plan and its horrific effects.

Thank you very much for your courtesy, attention and assistance in these regards.

*Most respectfully,*

*The Directors of the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance*

*Anthony McKenna (Niagara/Orleans Counties),  
Dr. Daniel Barletta (Monroe County)  
James Jerome (Oswego County)  
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