



*News From*

# Maggie Brooks

*Monroe County Executive*

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## **BROOKS & HOFFMAN: “PLAN 2014” A RISKY DEAL FOR PROPERTY OWNERS & PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Plan poses significant threats to communities on the south shore of Lake Ontario*

Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** and Wayne County Board of Supervisors Chairman **Jim Hoffman** today voiced their opposition to the International Joint Commission (IJC) Plan 2014 that will change the current regulations controlling the level of Lake Ontario. Plan 2014 will be a departure from the Lake’s current 4-foot regulatory range, which has been in effect for over 50 years, and instead allow for a greater variation that could lead to significant public and private property damage.

*“Local homeowners and businesses along the south shore of Lake Ontario have invested a great deal into protecting their properties against 50 years of fairly steady lake levels,” said **Brooks**. “Under Plan 2014, higher levels could leave our lakeshore susceptible to significant flooding and increased erosion. This would almost certainly result in millions of dollars in damages to both private properties and public infrastructure, with no recourse at all for compensation.”*

The IJC estimates Plan 2014 will increase the annual cost of shoreline protection by 13% and increase annual damages by \$2.2 million. That number is considered low by many experts because it does not account for losses by local businesses and damages to bays and inlets.

*“Whatever environmental benefits may accrue to some parts of the lakeshore, Wayne County property owners on Lake Ontario and its embayments will suffer increased damages due to more frequent flooding and higher lake levels,” said **Hoffman**. “Plan 2014 does not provide for compensation or mitigation for property damage or economic losses. This is not in accordance with the provisions of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. The decline in assessed property values will shift the burden of taxes to the other already overburdened taxpayers in Wayne County.”*

In addition to private investment, both Monroe and Wayne County own and operate significant water, sewer, road, bridge, and park infrastructure along the shoreline. The Monroe County Water Authority’s Edgemere pump station, which provides clean drinking water to over 600,000 residents, has been susceptible to high lake levels in the past and a consistent threat of high water could jeopardize our community’s water supply.

**Brooks, Hoffman**, Senator Joe Robach, Senator Mike Nozzolio, Assemblyman Bob Oaks, and the Republican Majority of the Monroe County Legislature have all issued official notice to Secretary of State John Kerry in opposition to Plan 2014. Both the Monroe County Legislature and Wayne County Board of Supervisors have also passed resolutions in opposition of Plan 2014.

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