

TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION (IJC)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

WHEREAS, The Town of Irondequoit is concerned regarding the environment, homes, sewer and water systems, tax base, communities, lifestyle, and property values;

AND WHEREAS, after \$20,000,000.00 spent between 2000-2006 and millions since, the resulting new plan BV7, is more damaging to the Lake Ontario South Shore than the plan, known as Plan B+, that was not approved a few years ago;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated that BV7 will cost between \$4 and \$5 million dollars in annual damages, the vast majority to occur in the United States, in New York State and on Lake Ontario. (IJC figures);

AND WHEREAS, The IJC working group is attempting to remove the promise of damage mitigation by saying that the estimated \$4.5 million in annual BV7 damages is not damage at all, but rather a "reduction in benefits" that the system has provided to south shore riparians over the years;

AND WHEREAS This "sleight of hand" would be similar to saying that, as you have had ten fingers your whole life, cutting off three of them would not be a problem, but just a reduction in the benefits of that having ten fingers provides;

AND WHEREAS It is notable that other interest groups, who will not be disadvantaged by this plan, have seen much larger benefits from regulation than have south shore riparians and will receive even greater benefits under this plan. Power cannot be produced without a dam and cannot be sold at cut-rate prices to keep businesses open and employ people in the North Country without the dam and regulated water levels. It is essential to observe the benefit that the Great Lakes shipping industry and its employees, steel mills, grain producers and manufacturing plants have received from regulated water levels;

AND WHEREAS Imbalance is present when one group perceives their interests to be so important that hurting another group is, not only acceptable, but even a part of the plan.

AND WHEREAS Plan BV7 has been crafted by environmental misinterpretations, and it has been stated that anyone who does not support Plan BV7 is an enemy of the environment in need of a dose of "benefit reduction;"

AND WHEREAS For many years shore dwellers in Irondequoit have watched high water -- especially during storms -- take down trees, cause significant erosion, and destroy the habitat of shorebirds such as the bank swallow. Any plan that allows flooding of the shoreline beaches, and erosion of what is left of the natural seawall, is destructive to natural and human habitat as well. Particularly destructive to the environment are the swamping and destruction of water treatment facilities, such as those located in Irondequoit, which serve all of Monroe County (the Rochester metropolitan area of approximately one million people);

AND WHEREAS BV7 is claimed to help the Muskrat population by increasing it by nearly 160%, yet one might observe that the DEC has a no bag limit on muskrat trapping. With a license, one can trap as many as one wants. In fact, a DEC employee was quoted earlier this year in the Watertown Daily News as saying, "...the nice thing about them, (muskrats) is that they are easy to catch and there are plenty of

them.” Additionally, the cattails so many feel the need to eliminate are a primary source of food to muskrats;

AND WHEREAS It is said that BV7 will help solve the declining population problem of the Black Tern. The Black Terns declining population in New York is actually a shifting of their migration pattern in North America. Regulated water levels are mentioned as a possible reason, but no more clearly than recreational boat wakes causing Black Tern nests to be destroyed;

AND WHEREAS it is claimed that 64,000 acres of wetlands have been lost by the current regulation plan. The Town Council contends that this has occurred because the wetlands have been flooded, not because they have "dried out." Additionally, many acres of new wetlands were created when the dam flooded vast sections of the St. Lawrence River Valley. Now one must ask how many miles of shoreline, both private and public, will be lost under BV7;

AND WHEREAS The plan does not address another environmental concern, the St Lawrence River EPA Superfund sites caused by Alcoa, General Motors and Reynolds Aluminum. Not much has been said about the PCBs, Dioxins, Mirex and Mercury coming into the lake from the Black River, Oswego River and Genesee River. Indeed, 85% of our water supply from the Niagara River flows past the Love Canal and the old Hooker chemical sites. It might be that the radioactive materials leaking into the lake from nuclear waste sites near Toronto are the reasons that people are catching fewer Northern Pike? Pollution may be having a negative effect on fish, wildlife and wetlands;

AND WHEREAS the Irondequoit Town Board does not want any interest to be damaged. The Town Council wants U.S. Citizens to be able to live, work and play in, on, and along a lake and river that is safe, healthy and preserved for future generations;

AND WHEREAS the role of government should not be to harm the very citizens it is charged to protect., please redo plan BV7 to harm none of the stakeholders;

AND WHEREAS A balanced approach is not a plan that places 95% of the damages in the United States, in New York State and on Lake Ontario's south shore;

THEREFORE, be it resolved on this date, June 7, 2012, that the duly elected Irondequoit Town Council, Mary Joyce D'Aurizio, Supervisor; Deborah Essley, Deputy Supervisor; Stephanie Aldersley, Council Member; Paul Marasco, Council Member; and John Perticone, Council member, DO OFFICIALLY REQUEST THAT THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION PRESENT A BALANCED PLAN, with no disproportional damages and no unmitigated damages. We respectfully request that the IJC revise BV7 to treat all parties equally, and that the plan foster an atmosphere that does not pit interest groups against one another. And we additionally respectfully request that the IJC institute a transparent process that includes representation from among property owners along on Lake Ontario's shores, ponds and bays, recreational boaters, and businesses.

This communication to be sent immediately to the International Joint Commission as the IJC gathers input and responses to Plan BV7. Copies to be sent to The Towns of Webster, Hamlin, Greece, Hilton, Parma, Williamson, and Pultneyville, together with the County of Monroe.