



News From

# Maggie Brooks

## Monroe County Executive

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### **BROOKS OPPOSES INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION WATER REGULATION PLAN**

**Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks** today sent a letter of opposition to the water regulation plan proposed by the International Joint Commission (IJC), which oversees regulation of water levels in Lake Ontario. The proposed plan, known as "Bv7," makes major changes to the regulation of water levels in Lake Ontario that will cause millions of dollars in damage to property owners and recreational boaters.

*"Lake Ontario is one of our great natural resources which has been enjoyed and utilized by property owners and recreational boaters in and around Monroe County,"* said **County Executive Maggie Brooks**. *"The fact that the IJC has not prepared adequately to avoid major damage for property owners and boaters or to make efforts to mitigate that damage is inexcusable."*

Monroe County owns and operates significant water, sewer, road, bridge, and park infrastructure along the shoreline. The County also has approximately 37 miles of shoreline, which would be susceptible to flooding and increased erosion as a result of high lake levels. Additionally, the Monroe County Water Authority provides clean drinking water to over 600,000 residents through the Edgemere Pump Station located in the Town of Greece. This facility has required sandbag protection from past high lake levels.

Key points for basis of opposition to water management plan:

- Major damage to shoreline property on Lake Ontario will occur as a result of allowing higher water levels over a prolonged period of time and there is a strong belief by property owners that damage estimates by the IJC have been significantly understated.
- The scientific basis relied upon by the IJC in the creation of this plan has been disputed by scientists, several of whom were members of an advisory group involved with the IJC in its studies from 2000-2008.
- There is no plan to provide any sort of mitigation of damage to shoreline property owners or recreational boaters for the damage predicted by the IJC as a result of this new water management plan. Additionally, with diminished funds available for dredging, there is a high level of risk that some ports and channels would become unnavigable.
- This plan calls for major changes to the operations and authority of the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control, which will reduce its ability to act swiftly to maintain stable levels in Lake Ontario.

In addition to sending a letter to the IJC, County Executive Brooks will introduce a Memorializing Resolution in the Monroe County Legislature opposing this plan.

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