

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 6, 2012

Ms. Lana Pollack
U.S. Section Chair
International Joint Commission (IJC)
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 615
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Ms. Pollack,

We write concerning the series of public information meetings that are being held in New York State this month concerning the IJC's development of a revised regulatory plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. We understand that while the IJC will accept public comments following these meetings through June 15th, local community members have shared their concern that none of the three United States IJC Commissioners will be on hand to directly hear the comments and feedback from meeting attendees.

As the IJC develops this plan and plans to host more meetings over the coming months, it is important that it receives input from all the various stakeholders. Certainly, the IJC shares this concern to solicit input as evidenced by the Commission's decision to move these initial public information meetings which were originally scheduled to occur this past winter, to June, when better weather conditions would presumably allow more participants to attend the meetings. However, in your capacity as the U.S. representatives who will ultimately vote to proceed with any new plan, we respectfully draw your attention to this concern and request one or more of the IJC Commissioners attend these and subsequently planned meetings in which public comments will be solicited.

We appreciate your personal attention to this matter as you consider all stake holder comments in evaluating new orders of operation.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator