



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK
June 8, 2012

Ms. Lana Pollack
U.S. Section Chair
International Joint Commission
2000 L Street NW, Suite 615
Washington, District of Columbia 20440

Dear Commissioner Pollack,

I write to you today to once again request that the International Joint Commission (IJC), New York State and relevant agencies meet and address the vital need for shoreline protection. This is a crucial need and best practices for property protection must be developed before plan Bv7 can be finalized. I urge the development of the final Order of Approval to include a plan that incorporates the expertise of the IJC and relevant agencies in an environmental and mitigation plan that will provide the necessary coastal protections; specifically for the southern shore of Lake Ontario.

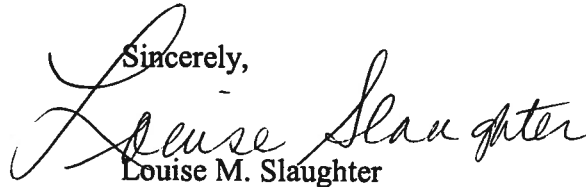
I appreciate the IJC's efforts to develop a new water level management plan that aims to balance the needs of Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, the public, the environment and the interests of the bordering States and governments. For decades, we have lived with the current regulation plan, which has maintained the water level within a four-foot range. I share your belief that the current regulation plan is outdated and has been the cause of significant damage to our ecosystem, wetlands, beaches and shorelines.

I also want to express my concern about the local ramifications of a new water management plan on residents, businesses and municipalities along the south shore. I have heard from many of my constituents regarding the water level management plan and I understand their concerns: an increased risk of flooding, a greater risk of erosion and a need for mitigation should their homes be damaged.

Those who live within Great Lakes region know how important these bodies of water are to local communities. The Great Lakes are the source of drinking water for 30 million Americans and hold 95 percent of this nation's freshwater supply. Jobs, recreation and tourism all depend upon a healthy and flourishing ecosystem.

I pledge to continue to work with the IJC and other stakeholders towards a new Order of Approval that accounts for all interests within the Lake Ontario St. Lawrence Seaway; including the environment and shoreline protections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise M. Slaughter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

c: The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
USACE Buffalo District Commander LTC Stephen Bales
USACE Incoming Commander LTC Owen Beaudoin
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Joseph Martens
New York State Department of State Secretary Cesar Perales