



July 24, 2006

Lisa Bourget
U.S. Section Secretary
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20440

international Joint Commission

ACTION: BM

INFORMATION: LB, JC, FB, RT, CMRS

FILE:

RECEIVED
JUL 27 2006
U.S. SECTION SECRETARY

Re: Plan B+ from the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study

Dear Secretary Bourget:

This letter regards the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River study and recommends Plan B+ for regulating the Lake Ontario Basin. I am writing as the Director of the Eastern Water Project on behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU) and its New York Council. TU is a national not-for-profit organization whose mission is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. The New York Council represents TU members and chapters in the state on issues of statewide concern. TU has approximately 154,000 volunteers in 450 chapters nationwide and close to 9,000 volunteers in its 36 New York chapters.

We would like to thank the International Joint Commission (IJC) for its efforts in leading this study on Lake Ontario and developing potential regulation plans such as Plan B+. Thanks to these efforts, the IJC has the opportunity to implement a plan that benefits the environment while also creating significant economic benefit to the Lake Ontario area. We strongly support Plan B+ as an excellent compromise that balances costs and benefits for all interests.

Based on a strong scientific foundation, Plan B+ will restore the lake's natural cycles, which are necessary to maintain the health of the coastal habitats of the lake and river. Plan B+ will not only allow the lake to resume its natural cycles and stop Plan 1958DD's continued environmental harm but will also tame the extreme high and low lake levels and prevent economic harm. Thus, Plan B+ represents an ideal compromise, greatly improving the area's environmental health without increasing the risk of flooding or property damage.

Plan B+ goes beyond just preventing economic loss, however, and, in fact, according to studies, will lead to a net economic benefit to the region. Furthermore, this benefit calculation does not account for the increased income from sport-fishing and hunting, which would dramatically increase in response to healthier lake and river ecosystems. If Plan B+ should cause any cost increase to other interests, such as shoreline property, these costs would represent minimal percentage increases over current costs.

Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization
Arlington, VA



Also, the study shows that basin-wide economic benefits would greatly outweigh the small cost increases. So, Plan B+ offers net economic gain in addition to restoration of environmental health.

Finally, Plan B+ allows for flexibility and refinement throughout its implementation. Since Plan B+ would be implemented with an adaptive management approach, the IJC could continually assess and improve the management of the system.

Again, we recognize the time and effort that the IJC has put into this study and we thank you for that. Based on this study, we support Plan B+ for its environmental improvement, economic benefit, and adaptable management. We are committed to working with and helping the state establish more protective standards for Lake Ontario.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kirt Mayland".

Kirt Mayland

- cc: Ron Urban
President of the NY Council
- Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Senator Charles E. Schumer
- Congresswoman Louise Slaughter
- Congressman James Walsh
- Congressman John M. McHugh