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July 27, 2006

Mr. Dennis L. Schornack
Chairman, United States Section
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street NW Ste 100
Washington, DC 20440

International Joint Commission

ACTION: BM

INFORMATION: LB, JC, FB, RT, CMRS

FILE:

RECEIVED-IJC
INT'L JOINT COMMISSION
2006 AUG -2 A 9:23

Dear Commissioner Schornack,

I am writing to express my concerns with the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study Board's report (Study) for managing the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River water levels and flow management.

I have long supported the International Joint Commission's (IJC) five-year Lake Ontario water regulation study and have secured funding for its completion over the past five years. The Study's promise was to develop a plan that better balanced the needs of the Lake, its users, and its bordering residents. A guideline governing the Study states, "Criteria and Regulation Plans will produce a net benefit to the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River System and its users and will not result in disproportionate loss to any particular interest or geographic area."

However, the three candidate plans as currently drafted unduly threaten the security and interests of the specific geographical area of Lake Ontario's south shore. The Study's net economic loss analysis does not reveal the true total cost of coastal damage and flooding associated with the three candidate plans. Specifically, the Study did not account for the annual cost of erosion and flooding to publicly-owned land, public infrastructure, undeveloped parcels, and the loss of assessed value to homeowner land. Accounting for this additional cost presents a disproportionate loss to Lake Ontario south shore interests.

I join with the governments, communities, and individuals across the south shore stretching from Monroe County to Niagara County who have expressed their opposition to all candidate plans for not maintaining the criteria in the existing Orders of Approval that provide essential protections for south shore communities in the event of excess supply.

Furthermore, I have also previously forwarded to you letters from my constituents and study participants who are additionally concerned about the validity of the Study's environmental and scientific analysis and conclusions.

Therefore, I do not support the three candidate plans as presently drafted. I strongly urge the IJC to include criteria in their final plan that mitigates flood and erosion damage to the south shore in the event that levels exceed the current maximum level.

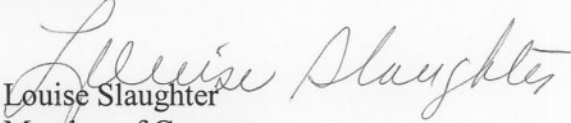
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I would welcome the opportunity to elaborate on my concerns with the Commissioners. To arrange this conversation, please contact Alan Snyder of my Washington, DC staff at (202) 225-3615. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,


Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

LMS:abs

cc: Ms. Irene Brooks, Commissioner, U.S. Section
Mr. Allen Olson, Commissioner, U.S. Section
Ms. Lisa Bourget, Secretary, U.S. Section