

July 28, 2006

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

Subject: International Lake Ontario – St Lawrence River Study

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Plan B+, which will create a more sustainable water regulation system for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

For more than fifty years, the environmental health of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River has been compromised and now is the time for a change towards a healthier Lake and River. The current regulation plan, 1958D with deviations, has been significantly destructive to the River and Lake ecosystem, particularly wetlands and the fish and wildlife populations that rely on them. Plan B+ allows for more natural water fluctuation which benefits the ecosystem as well as a majority of the users of the River and Lake including fishermen, recreational boaters, and municipal water users.

I am also writing to encourage the IJC to include funding for an adaptive management approach which would support ongoing research of the impacts of water levels regulation on the River and Lake ecosystem. Additionally, I encourage the IJC to limit deviations from Plan B+ only in the event of a significant emergency.

Now is the time for change and I sincerely hope that you will choose Plan B+ and, in turn, a more healthy St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario for all.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Smider

Renss, NY,

International Joint Commission

ACTION: BH
INFORMATION: LB, JC, FB, RT, CMRS
FILE: