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Minoa, New York

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INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION  
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September 14, 2006

Mr. Dennis L. Schornack  
Chairman, United States Section  
International Joint Commission  
1250 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC, 20037

International Joint Commission  
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ACTION: BU  
INFORMATION: LB, J, FB, RT, CMRS  
FILE:

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to express my deep displeasure and disappointment at the recommendations recently made by the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study Board regarding the management of the water levels for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

I have been a property owner on the shore of Ontario Lake, near the inlet to Sandy Pond for over forty years. During these years I have witnessed the insidious destruction of the property due to the elevated levels of the water. Dunes and vegetation have been ripped away during storms to be left naked to the winds that have moved the sand to the inland waters creating non-navigable waters. It was my hope the recommendations would have proposed a positive position to alleviate the destruction.

During the 2005 public hearings constituents and public officials expressed their displeasure at the three plans presented. Despite our displeasure we were assured our concerns would be taken into consideration. The recommendations were not modified to lessen the detrimental environmental impact to the shore communities.

The damages are due primarily to the creation of the high and low water extremes established by the International Joint Commission. They have effectively and categorically continued to maintain the levels at the high levels of the range and not allowing the lower levels to be achieved in order for the shoreline to be restored. The consequence effects the natural environment, the property values, revenues to local business and the tax revenues to the local communities.

The Orders for Approval for the establishment of the four foot range was touted as being for the protection of the shoreline, in the design and protection of navigation channels and facilities, and in the design and operation of recreational boating, docking, launching and mooring facilities. The eroded dunes west of Sandy Pond have been blown into large areas of the pond to the point boats can no longer navigate the area. This past year a substantial section, estimated to be 100' long by 20' wide by 5' high has been eroded into Sandy Pond. This was due to the high water during the winter months.

It is apparent to me the Study results make no concerted effort to improve the situation for the Lake shore residents. It also appears that the Study was predicated on the provision of benefits to other interests solely at the expense of the south shore and downstream riparian communities.

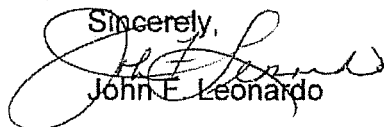
Review of the Study by two environmental scientists involved in the Study have concluded that the high water levels created by the plans are not necessary and that the existing water plan has produced a water level to adequately protect the functioning of the wetlands. Also the Integrated Ecological Response Model used as the tool to evaluate the environmental effects is not a model in the first place and yet it was used for the evaluation.

A special panel of the National Research Council concluded that the scientific work done is neither sufficient nor adequate to support the kind of attempted decision making.

I feel that the final Study Report appears to be biased against the interests of the residents, is scientifically unsupportable and does not give well reasoned set of options to the Commission. Of particular interest is the appearance that the minority views were ignored during the Study.

Therefore, I respectfully request and encourage the Commission to not act upon the majority recommendations in the Study Report.

Sincerely,



John F. Leonardo