

September 14, 2006

Allen I. Olson
International Joint Commission
U.S. Section
1250 23rd Street, N.W. Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20440

RECEIVED-IJC
IJC JOINT COMMISSION
2006 SEP 20 AM 11:45

Subject: Final Report issued by Study Board

International Joint Commission

ACTION: GM
INFORMATION: LB, SC, FB, CT, CMRS
FILE:

Dear Commissioner Olson,

I am writing you to express my full support and faith in the comments made in a letter sent to you dated May 31, 2006 from Drs. Daniel Barletta and Frank Sciremammano.

Additionally, I would like to comment on the recently completed International Lake Ontario- St. Lawrence River Study Report as well as the National Research Council's findings regarding its assessment of the study. My hope from the start was that the Study would look at upper Lake Ontario water level limits, with emphasis on the time of year, relative to those limits presently permitted, without adversely affecting down stream flooding interests. Unfortunately, this has not occurred with the plan options being offered.

As a member of PIAG, I spent much time during the study educating Lake Ontario shoreline residents about the system and the types of problems and issues facing River interests. I do not feel that some River interests fully understand or care what affect higher water levels have on the erosion prone shorelines of Lake Ontario or public accesses to the Lake itself.

I am disappointed at the Study's greater emphasis placed on economic benefits rather than disproportionate loss, which is contrary to the IJC's directive that clearly requires no disproportionate loss first, then, and only then, to consider maximizing economic benefits. This is especially true of eastern and southern shore areas of Lake Ontario and the respective coastal stakeholders. My perception was backed by the findings of the NRC, which pointed out many shortcomings in the analysis and conclusions drawn by the study regarding the coastal area.

The Coastal Technical working group developed a water level curve that scientifically demonstrated accelerated erosion at levels above 246.7 feet. This is half a foot below the current upper water level target of 247.3 feet. Many landowners have protected their property at significant cost. Unfortunately, there are no such funds spent to bolster private and public beach areas due to lack of government interest and due to difficulty in obtaining regulatory approval. Although erosion is fought and sand replenished at more popular and more economically affected areas such as Florida's beaches, New York State and the Federal Government does not spend relative dollars on Eastern Lake Ontario shorelines.

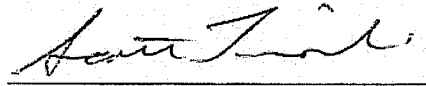
I was suspect of the analysis and disappointed, but not surprised when I read the National Research Council found some of the Environmental assumptions unsupported and the results, therefore, inconclusive regarding the Environmental Technical Working Group's assessment.

It was disconcerting to learn that the New York Power Authority provides financial assistance to Counties and Municipalities along the St. Lawrence River, but not along Lake Ontario shorelines. During years of low water supplies, we are sure boaters would appreciate dredging grants which would permit access to the Lake from the major tributaries that host marinas and feed into the Lake.

We can all enjoy the system while protecting and growing the environment within the current target range. What we cannot accept is to let the lake level exceed 246.7 ft. without procedures in place that permits water levels to be rapidly reduced should a major weather event be eminent. This is plainly wrong and goes against common sense social and economic thinking as it affects local residents.

We respectfully urge you to not accept any plan that does not take the residents of the Eastern and Southern shore into greater consideration. Doing so, will cause individual hardships, loss of public beach access, clogged waterways leading to Lake Ontario and disproportionate loss.

Sincerely,



Scott Tripoli
PIAG Member, US