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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3225

May 1, 2008

Ms. Irene B. Brooks, United States Chair
Mr. Herb Gray, Canadian Chair
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street, NW, Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20440

Dear Chairwoman Brooks and Chairman Gray:

I write to share my point of view on the International Joint Commission's Plan 2007 as its ninety day comment period continues. I applaud the open and fair process the IJC has undertaken regarding the regulation of water levels in Lake Ontario. Throughout the five year process, the IJC has taken proper steps to consider environmental concerns as well as the protection of private property, specifically on the lake's South Shore.

As an avid outdoorsman who regularly fishes the estuaries of Lake Ontario, I can respect the will of our environmental community to further expand protection of our wetlands and the lake's numerous watersheds. Plan 2007 adequately addresses environmental improvements for Lake Ontario. The inclusion of performance indicators and the flexibility of Plan 2007 to address adverse scenarios is a logical compromise to all the interests of concerned parties who have voiced their opinions throughout the planning process.

Plan 2007 provides a delicate balance of increasing environmental safeguards while protecting the shoreline and homes of many New Yorkers. Any changes to further augment the environmental safeguards could have a damaging effect on the South Shore.

At current water levels, citizens of the South Shore are already experiencing dangerous erosion to their properties. To further exacerbate this erosion would be financially devastating to property owners and could have an adverse impact on environmental concerns that are unforeseen at this time.

Neither New York State nor the Federal government is in a financial position to support landowners should their properties require preventative or corrective measures to address flooding or erosion concerns as a result of the IJC's decision. For most people, these properties – especially those of primary residence – are their family's largest single investment and protecting them should be our number one concern.

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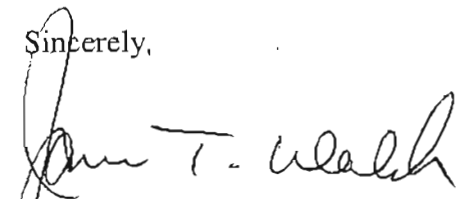
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I urge the IJC to continue in the direction it has taken and offer you praise for the process implemented thus far. Plan 2007 will further protect the environment while protecting the interests of property owners along the entire lake shoreline. We can do both.

Sincerely,



James T. Walsh
Member of Congress

cc: Allen I. Olson, United States Commissioner
Jack P. Blaney, Canadian Commissioner