

CHAIRWOMAN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2469 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515-3221
(202) 225-3615



DISTRICT OFFICES:

3120 FEDERAL BUILDING
100 STATE STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14614
(585) 232-4850

465 MAIN STREET, SUITE 105
BUFFALO, NY 14203
(716) 853-5813

1910 PINE AVENUE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
(716) 282-1274

WEBSITE: <http://www.louise.house.gov>

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
28TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

May 6, 2008

Mr. James G. Chandler
Acting Secretary, United States Section
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20440

RECEIVED IJC
PL. JOINT COMMISSION
MAY 13 P 2:57

Dear Mister Secretary:

I appreciate the International Joint Commission's efforts to develop a water level management plan that will better balance the needs of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, the public, and interests of the bordering States and governments. Yet I am concerned that the IJC's recently released Plan 2007 fails to do so.

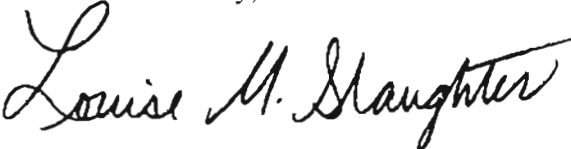
I have long supported the International Joint Commission's (IJC) five-year Lake Ontario water regulation study and secured federal funding for its completion. One of the study's goals was to make decision-making as transparent as possible, "involving and considering the full range of interests...with broad stakeholder and public input." However, I am deeply concerned that the direction the IJC is going does not meet this promise. Despite receiving extensive public comment on three previously proposed plans, Plans A+, B+ and D+, you presented Plan 2007 to the public. This plan was created outside of the \$20 million, taxpayer funded study. Plan 2007 had not previously been submitted to the public for comment or fully vetted by the scientific community and the State of New York. Additionally, Plan 2007 closely mirrors the existing regime, effectively disregarding the IJC's directive to institute constructive reforms to the lake level management plan.

Any new water level management plan that raises water levels may increase the potential for flooding and resulting economic loss along the south shore of Lake Ontario. In my previous correspondence to the IJC, I urged you to devise a final plan that contains criteria to mitigate potential flood and erosion damage along Lake Ontario's south shore. I am disappointed that Plan 2007 fails to do so. I urge the IJC to meet with the State of New York and develop an environmental restoration and mitigation plan that will provide these necessary protections. As you have stated, implementing this kind of plan would allow the IJC to adopt Plan B+, which has been evaluated by the public and endorsed by stakeholders, including the State of New York and the Province of Ontario.

Therefore, I cannot offer my support for Plan 2007 as presently drafted. The IJC must make efforts to discuss mitigation plans with the State of New York and other responsible parties before moving forward with a new water level management plan.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I would welcome the opportunity to elaborate on my concerns with the Commissioners. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Martha Goodman on my staff at (202) 225-3615 to arrange this conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise M. Slaughter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress