

To the International Joint Commission,

Wetlands and healthy watersheds are as precious as gold ecologically. These areas provide habitat for a myriad of organisms, supporting a unique biodiversity in the ecosystem and contributing to natural cycles that are essential to human survival. Wetlands and waterways provide countless services to humans, from transportation, to food, to bases for economies; but they cannot provide any of these benefits if their delicate balance is disturbed by uncalculated human interference. The Great Lakes region has a tremendous wealth of clean, fresh water that will become all the more valuable as time progresses (Las Vegas, for example, is currently facing water shortages in its future that could end its ability to exist as a center for tourism). Soon, water resources will likely become a defining factor in the success of any area economically and socially. For this reason, it is of paramount importance that these areas be cared for in a careful and sustainable way. If not, then these areas will be destroyed, and they will not be able to return to their original balance. There is only so much natural habitat that can be given away before there are not enough natural systems to support human existence. Action has to be taken now to create a paradigm shift in the way humans interact with the environment. For this reason it is imperative that Plan B+ be implemented by adopting a firm deadline for this plan, in order to protect Upstate New York's water resources in a sustainable fashion. Too often do politics override the actions and decisions of scientists, who actually study and devote their lives to the environmental issues at hand. Plan B+ is the result of a collaborative effort of 180 scientists to create a plan to help the environment and those who depend upon it for their well being. This plan is created by experts and therefore should be implemented as a wise approach to protecting Upstate New York's water resources. I ask that this concern receive a written reply, explaining either the decisions to implement, or the decision to choose a different plan (which would affirm my worse fears that this nation cannot, in fact, override politics to make realistic, sustainable and common sense decisions to protect the future of the earth and its people).

With concern,

Mark Loria

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