

David J. Cole

Fairport, NY
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Frank Bevacqua
Public Information Officer
International Joint Commission, U.S. Section
Fourth Floor
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Mr. Bevacqua:

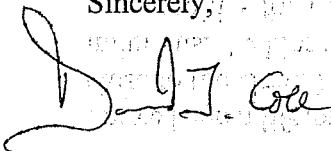
I am writing to show my support for implementing Plan B+ to manage water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. I would like to see the IJC declare a firm deadline to implement the plan soon. It is vital to protect the unique ecosystem within these watersheds, while at the same time acknowledge commercial, recreational, and hydro-electric power generation interests, which are vital to this area's economic sustainability. The plan does an admirable job of protecting the public good and economic interests for both the U.S. and Canada.

I have been a lifelong resident of Western New York and enjoy the benefits of living so close to the Great Lakes. Albeit those lakes bring the winter weather for which we are infamous, the blessings they bring are numerous: green landscapes, incredible fishing, opportunities for water sports, unique natural beauty, and a steady source of fresh water. Additionally the Niagara River, Niagara Falls, and St. Lawrence River add to the natural treasures residents and tourists can enjoy. Most recently, Americans have been forced to recognize the tenuous nature of our dependence upon fossil fuels and for some time, we have been aware of the ecological price paid upon air quality and with it, the effects upon our health and environment. A plan that protects hydro-electric generation is clearly in our best interest economically and environmentally.

It is rare, or may seem to be these days, to achieve a compromise that is such a clear win/win. The plan protects the environment while acknowledging human economic interests. Please help us protect this natural treasure shared with our Canadian neighbors.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



David J. Cole