

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

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Dear Mr. Bevacqua:

A healthy Lake Ontario is critically important not only to me, my family, but all of us living within the Lake Ontario watershed. Having lived in Fairport, six short miles from the south shore of Lake Ontario for more than three decades, I am well aware of the dangers and destruction of high water levels the "lake" creates numerous times during the year. All of us share the frustrations and concerns of the "regulated" lake, its ecosystems and how it affects the wildlife that depend on coastal water ways and wetlands. We live here in Western New York; and all that surrounds us are in the family of creatures. No one creature is immune to the effects of high variability of water levels.

Let me explain to you why: the B+ plan is a strong and balanced water level management plan. The IJC's proposed order would allow regulators to adopt B+ in the future, but provides no deadline or guarantees. Sound science and significant taxpayer investments should not be ignored for the status quo. New York State supports this plan, but it is the Federal Government and the public that will influence the IJC's final decision. Plan B+ provides more natural variability in water levels; significant enhancement to fish spawning and nursery grounds in coastal wetlands and, in turn, creates an ecosystem that is able to thrive and be more resilient to the threat of invasive species and polluted run-off.

We must adopt a firm deadline to implement Plan B+. Plan B+ will create a healthier environment and benefit a majority of the users of the lake and river, including fishermen, recreational boaters, hydropower, and municipal water users.

Please respond to my plea. I do appreciate your concern and cooperation in a critically important issue that certainly affects all of us in Western New York State.

Sincerely,



Richard Guido

Fairport, NY