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I am an environmentalist and as an elementary teacher I promoted environmental issues and concerns to hundreds of students throughout my professional career. I also support numerous environmental and conservation organizations.

My wife and I are also property owners on the South Shore of Lake Ontario. We purchased our property in 2002 with the intent to build our dream house/ retirement home. In the late fall of 2005, we hired a highly recommended, experienced Marine Contractor to construct a 138' break wall using 3 to 5 ton armor stones to protect our property. The stones were individually set to maximize and insure the greatest protection for our shoreline and at great expense prior to building our new home. On May 2, 2008 a nor'easter storm pounded our break wall and the impact of the waves dislodged a 4-ton stone. The Lake level at that time was 247' which is within current regulations of water levels. Higher water levels will create even more damage to a well-constructed break-wall that is only two years old. How will we be able to afford future repairs due to higher water levels?

The storm-drain on Hamlin-Parma Townline Rd. that borders our property has been clogged for several weeks now with the current water levels. I have personally attempted to unblock and dig out debris several times, but the current water levels quickly refilled the drain. I presume this will create drainage problems for all the other property owners on this road. I am also sure there are many other storm-drains with this same problem. Higher water levels will create even more drainage problems in the future.

Higher water levels increase the chance of flooding along the lakeshore. Flooding can wash out sewers and septic systems. Floodwater can also wash pesticides from lawns and farm runoff into the lake. All of these are serious environmental issues.

Any plan that raises water levels will cause erosion all around the lake. This erosion will take away New York State land and the state actually becomes smaller.

It has been suggested that mitigation may be available for property owners. If mitigation is only in the form of flood insurance, that basically offers little help to protect property owner's shorelines. If mitigation is suggested as financial assistance from NYS or other Federal agencies, it is not realistic to expect this help, given their current economic status.

We love living on the Lake and are assessed and pay a higher tax rate than other property owners. We strive daily to protect the environment and the Lake, however, not at the expense of devaluing and losing our lakeshore property. We currently have 20 feet of lakeshore property underwater. We still own the land and we are paying taxes on it even though it is underwater. As you devalue waterfront property due to higher water levels,

you also create a major impact on the tax base for all the towns, school districts and counties.

Proposed Plan 2007, offers some benefits for all interested parties and is the only plan that also reduces damages to properties along the shores of Lake Ontario. Plan 2007 also provides significant increases in hydropower production, greater wetland plant diversity along the shores of Lake Ontario, fewer delays due to unacceptably strong currents for ships in the St. Lawrence Seaway, and more reliable shipping depths for Montreal Harbour.

We want to thank the IJC for all their time and efforts to study and research this complicated task. We urge you to implement Plan 2007, which is the only proposal that provides a balanced approach for all interested stakeholders.