

Information Sessions and Public Hearings
On proposed new Order of Approval and Plan 2007
Town of Greece
June 11, 2008

I am Jim Hoffman, Town Supervisor of Williamson and Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors. I represent a rural county next to Rochester known which is the second largest producer of apples in the country.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on the proposed Plan 2007. Obviously a lot of work went in this plan and it does represent, in most respects, a compromise balancing the interests of the environment and coastal protection.

However, please take into account a few things when making decisions about lake levels in the future. There are 2,120 parcels in Wayne County with an assessed value of \$369,978,537 directly impacted by Lake Ontario water levels. Raising water levels above the current upper limit will decrease assessed values and erode our tax base. My town alone has 181 parcels value valued at \$45,856,400. My town also has a water plant and sells water to both residents and the Wayne County Water authority. Decreasing lake levels run the risk of using more energy to pump the water and low levels could ultimately impact on plant capacity.

Wayne County cannot fully support a plan that modifies the four-foot target range now in effect.

As I understand it Plan 2007 would allow exceeding the current upper limit of almost one foot. The loss due to erosion of private property and to the impact on businesses with an increase of the lake level of one foot would have an enormous negative impact on the individual property owners and the tax base. There would be losses to the tourist industry, recreational boating and a terrible impact of the local governments with losses in property tax and sales tax revenue.

I like many of the benefits to the environment the Commission is trying to accomplish to increase hydropower. However, I respectfully ask that the Commission considering calculating the true economic cost of any propose changes for those of us on the south lakeshore. Please consider a comprehensive impact study on that fully measures the impact on the economic impact and quality of life for us in Wayne County. And when that is done compare the advantages of any changes proposed with the cost incurred by those not benefiting from the changes.

Your consideration of the concerns of Wayne County and each of its waterfront towns is appreciated. There is a lot to the issue of regulating the lake and we have the utmost regard all the parties involved.