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FRANCINE DELMONTE
Member of Assembly
138TH District

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June 10, 2008

International Joint Commission
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to address the IJC this evening on behalf of my constituents that live along the Lake Ontario shoreline.

While I realize that the B+ plan has garnered a significant amount of support from state and federal offices as well as environmental groups, this plan may have serious ramifications for our local residents.

Raising the water levels in early Spring will not only encourage additional flooding but will also cause a disproportionate amount of damage to the shoreline. The cost of this damage will then have to be offset by the homeowners and the local municipalities.

It is my understanding that an alternative plan-2007 has been produced that is similar to plan-B+ but offers relief to shoreline property owners while continuing mitigation measures presently available under the existing plan. Homeowners contacting my office have repeatedly expressed their frustration working with the DEC to obtain permits allowing them to build retention walls to stem the amount of erosion occurring yearly. At the same time they are expected to pay property taxes on land underwater, they are stonewalled in pursuing methods that will help stem the loss of property.

It stuns me that a \$20 million study yielded inconclusive results regarding Plan B+'s success in protecting wetlands. That being the case, the IJC should pursue alternative Plan 2007 taking into consideration the challenges and costs higher water levels present Niagara County shoreline homeowners.

A plan that works for only parts of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River is not a successful plan. I respectfully encourage the IJC to adopt a plan that will benefit all of our New York State residents.

Sincerely,

Francine DelMonte
Member of Assembly