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I come to you as a daughter + the mother of a son who took a long winter hike for the river - But that's a story for another night.

I speak to you ~~today~~ representing six generations of our family living on or near South Bay on Wellesley Island. Each generation has taken the responsibility to teach their children how to live on ~~the~~ and take care of the ~~the~~ river.

One of our favorite family activities is to kayak and go "investigating" near the wetlands area where there is so much to explore. Sadly, I have seen changes in this area, changes that include a decrease in amphibians that are important environmental indicators. Changes in the number and size of fish as well. My grandfather used to catch showcase pike right off his dock! We have not had a catch like that in years.

I know how important natural water level changes are to the health of a wetlands and its inhabitants both plant and animal. I am doing my best to pass responsible environmental choices on to my children. I ask that you make a good choice too, to choose plan B+ ~~to help~~ to help assure significant environmental improvements to the river are made. I urge you to include funding for ongoing research. This research should show the impact of water levels on our river and lake ecosystem. Let's work together ^{It is my hope that a choice is made} so the generations who follow will have a healthy vibrant river to appreciate.

Thank you very much for your time.