



Empowering Communities. Advocating Solutions.

Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence Water Levels Management

Comments to the International Joint Commission

Oswego, NY

June 26, 2008

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is supported by over 80,000 members, CCE empowers communities and advocates solutions to protect public health and the natural environment.

On behalf of our Great Lakes members, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. CCE appreciates the research, analysis, and effort by International Joint Commission (IJC) to revisiting water levels management for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. This multi-year study, funded by United States and Canadian tax dollars, identified Plan B+ as the preferred management plan balancing all interests including environmental health, hydropower generation, and navigation. CCE is disappointed that the IJC failed to recommend Plan B+ and is instead advancing Plan 2007, or status quo, which will do nothing to reverse the decades of environmental degradation. **CCE is respectfully requesting that the IJC adopt a new order that includes a firm deadline to implement Plan B+.**

It is clear that we, as a society, know more now about the environmental impacts of our choices than we did 50 years ago. Plan B+ is a balanced plan that restores more natural water level fluctuations promoting diverse habitat for key species, increases clean, renewable hydropower production, and respects the rights of all stakeholders. CCE is concerned that while the IJC speaks highly of Plan B+ and indicates that this plan, or something similar, could be implemented in the future—no firm deadline is in place for implementation. CCE strongly supports proactively addressing Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River water level management to restore wetland diversity that filter near-shore pollutants, provide critical spawning and nursery grounds for aquatic life, and buffer erosion to benefit all lake and river users, dwellers, and enthusiasts. **The IJC has a historic opportunity to restore our freshwater coastline, cease compounding problems, and rectify the environmental degradation caused to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River by adopting a firm date to implement Plan B+.**

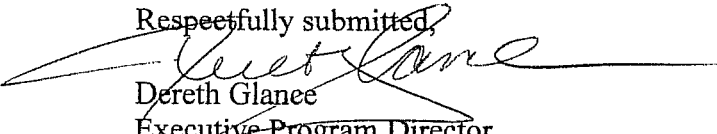
As you know, the Great Lakes are at an ecological tipping point. The good news is there are manageable solutions to the problems, but they must be addressed now before the solutions become more costly. Plan B+ will help rehabilitate coastal wetlands, which are critical habitat for migratory birds and animals, mitigate flooding, and filter impurities in

the water. Plan B+ will also provide an added boost to hydropower, which adds to New York's energy portfolio and reduces the need to invest more in costly and polluting fossil fuels.

As of today, more than 4,700 citizens have signed petitions and 823 letters have been written in support of Plan B+ calling for the IJC to adopt a firm deadline for implementing it. I implore the IJC to listen to the people of New York and protect our Lake and our River while we can.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today.

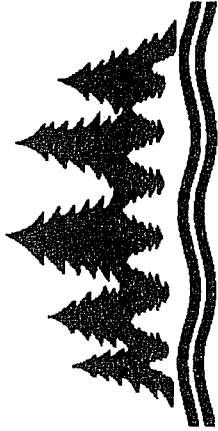
Respectfully submitted,



Dereth Glance

Executive Program Director

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



- White Plains, NY
- Albany, NY
- Buffalo, NY
- Syracuse, NY
- New Haven, CT

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Protect Lake Ontario & the St. Lawrence River!

I support Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) in its efforts to restore more natural water levels to Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

I urge the International Joint Commission and the U.S. Secretary of State to adopt an improved and balanced water level management plan, called Plan B+, to rehabilitate wetlands, improve hydropower productivity, and protect recreational and commercial shipping by adopting a firm deadline to implement Plan B+.

	Signature	Print Name	Street Address	Phone Number	E-mail Address
1)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Jane Reever			
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3)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Katrina Kerber			
4)	<i>[Signature]</i>	JAMES N. JOHNSON			
5)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Luann Brink			
6)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Sean McDonald			
7)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Andrea Wynn			
8)	<i>[Signature]</i>	JENNIFER SMITH			

Canvasser: M. Stewart Date: 6/24/08 Town: Greece ZIP: