

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 24, 2017

Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

We write to bring your attention the serious issues caused by the International Joint Commission's (IJC) plan to adjust the water levels in Lake Ontario, known as Plan 2014. This controversial and ill-conceived plan was passed at the end of the previous administration and is already wreaking havoc on communities in Central and Western New York.

In January 2017, the IJC instructed the St. Lawrence River Board to implement Plan 2014, which aimed to allow water Lake Ontario water levels to more naturally rise and fall. In reality, this plan is causing massive damage to properties, businesses, and communities along the lake's shoreline. Plan 2014 is damaging shoreline property and weakening economic activity brought to Lake Ontario through boating and recreation. To underline their practical concerns, local sheriff's offices are already issuing 500-foot No Wake Zones as opposed to the 100-foot No Wake Zones mandated by New York State because of the debris, submerged docks, and safety risks brought on by the new high water levels.

With still another two months of water level increases ahead, the lake is currently 19 inches over its Long Term Average and this level has not yet touched the water level triggers laid out in Plan 2014. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently issued a Great Lakes Water Level update, indicating another 11 inches of water is to be expected on Lake Ontario by mid-May.

We are urging your quick action to stop the implementation of this plan by withdrawing the United States from the agreement. Although ensuring that communities are not disproportionately impacted by any decision is a guiding principal of the IJC, they do not have a plan to compensate shoreline property owners who are harmed by the drastic changes in water levels. With this plan already causing millions of dollars in damage to our shores, it is imperative that the United States withdraws from this agreement immediately before further damage is caused.

Under its jurisdiction, the IJC regulates the flow of water in and out of Lake Ontario. Established in 1909 by the Boundary Waters Treaty, the IJC is tasked with providing unbiased advice to governments and conducting studies on issues related to our shared waters. An economic impact analysis report released by the IJC stated that 73.6 percent of the property damage anticipated from Plan 2014 is within the United States. Of the damages anticipated in the U.S., most of the burden of this agreement falls on New Yorkers living on the shoreline of Lake Ontario.

The Commission itself is composed of six commissioners: three representing the United States and three representing Canada. Each of the United States' commissioners serves at the pleasure of the President of the United States. Currently, there is one U.S. vacancy on the commission due to the resignation of Dereth Glance late last year. As it is apparent that the Obama Administration and current commissioners did not have the best interest of Americans in mind, we request that you quickly appoint individuals who will truly protect our best interest to replace them.

Plan 2014 strives for nominal environmental benefits at the major expense of shoreline property owners we represent. For this reason, we respectfully request that you withdraw the U.S. from Plan 2014 and fill the Commission with Americans who understand the flaws of Plan 2014. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



CHRIS COLLINS  
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO  
Member of Congress