

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

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
State, Foreign Operations, and  
Related Programs Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
State, Foreign Operations, and  
Related Programs Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2018 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include language to require the International Joint Commission's (IJC) to use its funds to compensate shoreline property owners for the disproportionate damages caused by Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan (Plan 2014) on residential and commercial shoreline properties.

In December 2016, the Obama Administration approved Plan 2014. As you may know, this plan increases the frequency of raising and lowering the water levels in Lake Ontario. This fluctuation in water levels will result in increased erosion damage to the Lake's south shoreline, including the lakeshore properties of businesses and homeowners. According to the IJC's own studies, implementation of the plan would raise the current water maximum by 2.4 inches and would increase the annual cost of shoreline maintenance and protections by 13 percent. Communities, residents, and businesses, including the recreational harbors along this shoreline that provide millions of dollars in economic activity, are at risk. The U.S. counties bear 76.3% of the economic damages of this plan. Of the eight U.S. counties touching Lake Ontario, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne Counties alone make up 66.2% of those damages.

We would like to ensure that the burden of this plan does not fall further onto U.S. taxpayers and is fully covered by the IJC's current budget. Therefore, we respectfully request that the following language is inserted into the FY18 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill:

*SEC. \_\_. (a) Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under the heading "International Commissions" for the International Joint Commission, not less than 50 percent of such amounts shall be made available to provide compensation to any United States person— (1) who owns public or private property located on the waterfront of Lake Ontario in the United States; and (2) whose interests in such property have been disproportionately harmed by implementation of the International Joint Commission's Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Plan 2014.*

*(b) In this section, the term "United States person" means— (1) a natural person who is a citizen of the United States or who owes permanent allegiance to the United States; (2) a corporation or other legal entity that is organized under the laws of the United States, any State or territory thereof, or the District of Columbia, if natural persons described in paragraph (1) own, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the outstanding capital stock or other beneficial interest in such legal entity; or (3) a government or governmental entity of the United States, any State or territory thereof, or the District of Columbia.*

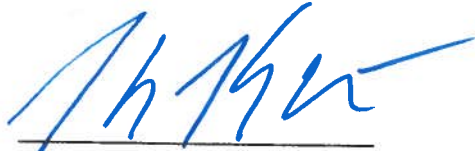
It is imperative that we protect our shoreline property owners from the expected impact of any international obligation. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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CHRIS COLLINS  
Member of Congress



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JOHN KATKO  
Member of Congress