

April 3, 2018

Honorable Lana Pollack
Chairwoman, U.S. Section
International Joint Commission
1717 H Street NW, Suite 801
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Chairwoman Pollack:

I am reaching out to you on behalf of Town of Greece shoreline residents and businesses to officially request the International Joint Commission Board to either maintain or increase Lake Ontario water outflows. Maximizing outflows from the Lake Ontario system will aid in reducing the flooding risk for New Yorkers living and working along the shoreline.

If the decision is made by the IJC Board to reduce Lake Ontario outflows, Town of Greece residents will face similar flooding issues as last year. Outflow levels must be increased in order to decrease the chances of potential flooding. I request that the outflow decisions be made in accordance with the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. By adhering to this treaty, the IJC can once again equitably share the water flow burden between New York and the Montreal region. This will limit the potential of flooding and ensure the protection of the public for both regions.

The Town of Greece has already begun implementing proactive measures to assist residents and business owners in preparation for the potential of flooding this year. We have begun deploying sand bags, sandbagging equipment, a berm structure, a new piping system, and other response assets to ensure minimal damage in the event of flooding this year. Additionally, an aqua dam was recently requested and we are anticipating its arrival to help with the possible flooding.

With Greece water-front residents concerned about the potential for flooding this year, I implore you to take reasonable actions to minimize that possibility, including maximizing outflows from the Lake Ontario system to reduce the flooding risk for New York residents and businesses. The problems associated with high water levels should not fall disproportionately on New York's shorelines.

Since its launch, I have opposed the International Joint Commissions plan to raise the lake levels and advocated against its implementation. In the best interest of my constituents, I implore you and the IJC Board to maximize outflows from the Lake Ontario system. Town of Greece residents experienced significant damages during the flooding events last year due to the decisions made by the IJC. From the start, I have been advocating for Greece residents and calling on the IJC to make decisions in accordance with the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty. I will continue contacting the IJC until a plan that takes into account our water-front residents is adopted.

If I can be of any further assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact my office at (585) 723-2311 with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. D. Reilich', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William D. Reilich
Supervisor
Town of Greece