

**Letters of Support Received from:**

1. Alcoa- Massena Operations
2. Alliance for the Great Lakes
3. American Rivers
4. Audubon
5. Audubon New York
6. Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
7. Citizens Campaign for the Environment
8. Ducks Unlimited- Great Lakes Region
9. Environmental Advocates of New York
10. Freshwater Future
11. Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian Bay Association and Foundation
12. Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council
13. Great Lakes United
14. International Association for Great Lakes Research
15. International Water Level Coalition
16. Izaak Walton League- New York Division
17. Michigan United Conservation Clubs
18. Midwest Environmental Advocates
19. National Wildlife Federation- Great Lakes
20. Save the River/ Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper
21. The Nature Conservancy- New York
22. The New York State Conservation Council
23. Thousand Islands Land Trust
24. Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited



**Alcoa Primary Metals/  
Global Hard Alloy Extrusions**

Massena Operations  
Park Avenue East  
PO Box 150  
Massena, NY 13662-0150 USA

April 22, 2008

Congressman John M. McHugh  
2366 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McHugh:

As a major North Country employer dependent upon hydropower for our production operations, we have a strong interest in the future of the St. Lawrence River and have closely followed the debate over various water level regulation plans.

We concur with you that it is imperative a plan be adopted by the International Joint Commission that takes into account environmental considerations and the concerns of the public, while at the same time maximizing hydropower production. As you recognize, all three of these issues – environmental considerations, public concerns regarding recreational uses and hydropower – are closely linked to the economy of this region. A St. Lawrence River water level management plan should clearly address these concerns in consideration of the economic future of the North Country.

We fully support your resolution regarding a water levels management plan that takes these three issues into account.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley Oberholzer", written over a horizontal line.

Wesley Oberholzer  
Primary Location Manager  
Alcoa Massena Operations



**American Rivers**  
*Thriving By Nature*

April 22, 2008

The Honorable John M. McHugh  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives McHugh and Slaughter:

On behalf of our 65,000 members and supporters, I am writing in support of your resolution expressing the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that the International Joint Commission (IJC) should adopt an appropriate water level management plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, American Rivers named the St. Lawrence River as one of our Most Endangered Rivers of 2008. This annual report highlights the rivers of our nation that are facing the most uncertain futures. This year, the International Joint Commission has an opportunity to revise the deleterious 50-year old water management plan for the Moses-Saunders Dam. The current plan has severely degraded river health and is threatening the river's lucrative tourism and recreation economy, and quality of life. The IJC must adopt a plan that provides 21<sup>st</sup> century solutions that benefit the millions of people who depend upon the river.

Research conducted by more than 180 scientists from the U.S. and Canada discovered that the current plan, which severely limits natural water level fluctuations, has significantly impacted the river environment. These conditions can be reversed by allowing the river to have a more natural flow as is proposed by Plan B+, a plan currently before the IJC. Plan B+ is widely supported by federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada and the New York Departments of Environmental Conservation and State, as well as numerous scientists, environmental groups, and federal, state and local lawmakers.

Thank you for introducing this resolution and for your leadership in ensuring that the most appropriate water level management plan is chosen for the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence system.

Sincerely,

Rebecca R. Wodder  
President



# Audubon NEW YORK

April 21, 2008

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The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515.

The Honorable John McHugh  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Slaughter and Congressman McHugh,

On behalf of Audubon New York and the National Audubon Society, we write to you today in strong support of your resolution calling for a strong, environmentally sustainable water level management regulation to be developed for Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River. This strong and timely resolution sends a clear message that the environmental needs of the Great Lakes Ecosystem must be adequately addressed and protected before any such regulation developed by the International Joint Commission (IJC) is approved.

As you are aware, the Great Lakes are an amazing natural resources that is critical not only to the region's birds and other wildlife, but to the economy and quality of life of the 42 million people that live within its watershed. More than 300 different bird species call the Great Lakes their home, but due to a host of factors, especially the loss of coastal wetland habitat, the populations of many of these species are in serious decline.

Specifically in the Lake Ontario/ St. Lawrence River ecosystem, as your resolution points out, over the last fifty years since the IJC began regulating water levels we have observed a fifty percent loss of coastal wetlands in the region. The loss of these important habitats not only reduces nesting availability for many species of birds, but also reduces food availability through the loss of important fish spawning grounds.

It is very unfortunate that the IJC has missed this important opportunity to reverse the decades of decline, and develop a regulation that restores a more natural flow and fluctuation of water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, which is needed to sustain these important coastal ecosystems. By ignoring the findings of their six year, \$20 million study and proposing "Plan 2007", the IJC is proposing to maintain the status quo

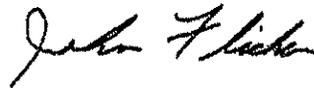
and change little from the current management plan. "Plan 2007" will not restore the natural cyclical rhythms of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River as was proposed in "Plan B+", the widely supported management proposal developed in the LIC Study that would provide significant environmental improvements to the region.

Audubon New York and the National Audubon Society applauds your attention to the need to restore the coastal ecosystems of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, and strongly supports your resolution calling for the adoption of a regulation that provides ecosystem benefits, and addresses the concerns of the public and the State of New York. We thank you for your strong efforts on this critical issue, and look forward to working with you and our partners throughout the region to ensure a sound environmental plan is implemented.

Sincerely,



Albert E. Caccese  
Executive Director  
Audubon New York



John Flicker  
President  
National Audubon Society



GREAT LAKES/ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE  
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April 17, 2008

Congressman John McHugh  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman McHugh and Congresswoman Slaughter:

On behalf of the 16,000 Ducks Unlimited members in New York, I would like to thank you for your initiative on developing the resolution regarding the water level management plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. As you know, DU has been engaged in this issue for many years, and strongly encouraged the International Joint Commission to adopt Plan B+ for future water level management of the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence system. In our scientific opinion, Plan B+ delivered the best overall environmental, economic and social benefits to all affected interests.

In our opinion, Plan 2007 as presented by the IJC does not go far enough to remedy the past management regime, nor look forward enough to ensure multiple future benefits for the majority of affected people and resources. DU is mobilizing our membership to be present at the public information sessions and public hearings scheduled by the IJC so that our voice will be heard.

Therefore, Ducks Unlimited supports your bi-partisan House Resolution calling for the IJC to increase the level of environmental protections and benefits, fully consider the views of the public and state of New York when selecting the new plan, and maximize hydropower production (in line with Plan B+). Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue, and rest assured that Ducks Unlimited will be following this important environmental issue very closely.

Sincerely,

Ray Whittemore  
Director of Conservation Programs

Cc: R. Hoffman  
G. Tori  
B. Marczyk

Bc: State Chair/RVP/SVP



The Nature Conservancy  
New York State Office  
195 New Karner Road  
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Albany, NY 12205

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[nature.org/newyork](http://nature.org/newyork)

April 21, 2008

Congressman John McHugh  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C.

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman McHugh and Congresswoman Slaughter:

On behalf of the 65,000 members of The Nature Conservancy in New York, I write in strong support of your resolution on an environmentally sound and economically beneficial regulation plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

The 650-mile coastline of Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence River constitutes the largest coastal environment in New York State. Lake Ontario and the upper River harbor more than 64,000 acres of coastal wetlands, extensive barrier beaches, and other coastal habitats that have been shaped over thousands of years by the ebb and flow of the lake and river.

Sound water management is an essential step in preserving the ecological health of freshwater ecosystems like Lake Ontario. Healthy ecosystems enhance our quality of life, and provide the foundation for a healthy economy.

After six years of study, with stakeholder consultation and exemplary science, the International Joint Commission (IJC) has an historic opportunity to exercise principles of sound water management in the regulation of Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence.

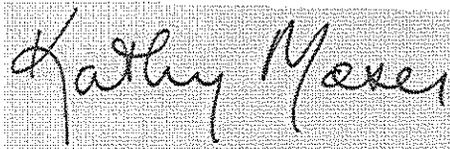
However, the proposed new regulation plan released for public comment by the IJC – Plan 2007 – does not restore the 30-year cycles that maintained the wetlands and dunes of Lake Ontario's coast prior to advent of water level regulation 50 years ago. The IJC's own 6-year study demonstrated that restoration of these age-old cycles could provide clear ecosystem benefits, and also economic benefits to the people of the basin.

An alternative regulation plan that achieves these benefits – Plan B+ -- was developed by the IJC study. The approach to water management of Plan B+ is to mimic Lake Ontario's natural hydrologic rhythm while dampening the extremes of high and low levels that can lead to economic damages.

By suggesting a pathway toward the much greater environmental improvements of Plan B+, the IJC recognizes the scientific basis for the broad support this plan has received from the State of New York and from federal and state/provincial agencies and NGOs in the U.S. and Canada.

Your resolution takes an important step toward adoption of a regulation plan that provides ecosystem benefits, addresses the concerns of the public and the State of New York, and increases the economic benefits from hydropower production for all New Yorkers. The Nature Conservancy thanks you for your initiative in developing this resolution, and we will join with partner organizations to bring concerned citizens to the public hearings in support of your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen Moser", is displayed within a rectangular, textured grey box.

Kathleen Moser  
Acting State Director

**Alliance for the Great Lakes • Audubon • Audubon New York • Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper • Citizens Campaign for the Environment • Ducks Unlimited • Environmental Advocates of New York • Freshwater Future • Georgian Bay Association • Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian Bay Association Foundation • Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council • Great Lakes United • International Association for Great Lakes Research • International Water Levels Coalition • Izaak Walton League, NY Division • Michigan United Conservation Clubs • Midwest Environmental Advocates • National Wildlife Federation • The New York State Conservation Council • Save The River/Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper • Thousand Islands Land Trust • Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited**

April 22, 2008

The Honorable John McHugh  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McHugh and Congresswoman Slaughter,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support for the house resolution you've developed that urges the International Joint Commission to adopt a water management plan for the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario that takes into consideration environmental needs and the concerns of the public and affected States and urges the Secretary of State to reject any plan that does not do so.

Since the completion of the Moses-Saunders hydropower dam 50 years ago, the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River ecosystems have suffered consistent losses to their globally significant biodiversity due to unnatural and damaging water levels regulation. The current, 50 year-old regulation scheme has artificially constrained water levels, resulting in considerable damage to more than 50% of the region's coastal wetlands and significant impacts to many fish species and nesting water birds.

After more than five years of study funded by \$20-million taxpayer dollars, the IJC has the information necessary to select a scientifically-based and publicly supported management plan that would deliver significant environmental improvements to the region. Instead, the IJC has turned its back on the Lake and River environment by proposing a plan – Plan 2007 – that continues, and perhaps even worsens, the environmental destruction of the Lake and River.

In a time of unprecedented momentum towards restoring the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system, the actions by the IJC that would reverse restoration programs are unacceptable.

We applaud your efforts to ensure that the environment of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario are protected from further damage. By introducing and supporting this resolution, you are sending a strong signal to the International Joint Commission that the

status quo, which has resulted in the significant losses of wetlands throughout the River and Lake ecosystem, is not acceptable.

Sincerely,

  
**Save The River/Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper**  
Jennifer Caddick, Executive Director  
409 Riverside Drive, Clayton, NY 13624  
(315) 686-2010  
[jennifer@savetheriver.org](mailto:jennifer@savetheriver.org)

**Alliance for the Great Lakes**  
Joel Brammeier, Vice President for Policy  
Chicago, IL

**Audubon**  
April H. Gromnicki, Esq., Director, Ecosystem Restoration  
Washington, DC

**Audubon New York**  
Albert E. Caccese, Executive Director  
Albany, NY

**Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper**  
Julie M. Barrett O'Neill, Esq., Riverkeeper and Executive Director  
Buffalo, NY

**Citizens Campaign for the Environment**  
Dereth Glance, Executive Program Director  
Albany, NY

**Ducks Unlimited**  
Gildo M. Tori, Director of Public Policy  
Ann Arbor, MI

**Environmental Advocates of New York**  
Katherine Nadeau, Water & Natural Resources Program Associate  
Albany, NY

**Freshwater Future**  
Jill Ryan, Executive Director  
Petoskey, MI

**Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian Bay Association and Foundation**  
Mary Muter, Vice President, Environment  
Parry Sound, ON

***Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council***

Thomas Marks, NY Director  
Derby, NY

***Great Lakes United***

John Jackson, Director, Clean Production  
Ontario, Canada

***International Association for Great Lakes Research***

Robert A. Sweeney, PhD, Executive Director  
Port Huron, MI

***International Water Levels Coalition***

Nancy Foster, Secretary  
Clayton, NY

***Izaak Walton League***

Les Monostory, President New York Division  
Fayetteville, NY

***Michigan United Conservation Clubs***

Robert M. Borchak, Director at Large  
Lansing, MI

***Midwest Environmental Advocates***

Karen M. Schapiro, Executive Director  
Madison, WI

***National Wildlife Federation***

Andy Buchsbaum, Regional Executive Director  
Ann Arbor, MI

***New York State Conservation Council***

Harold L. Palmer, President  
Ilion, NY

***Thousand Islands Land Trust***

Aaron R. Vogel, Executive Director  
Clayton, NY

***Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited***

Bill Pielsticker, Legislative Chair  
Lodi, WI