



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, and Ranking Member Rogers:

We write to request that the House Appropriations Committee retain funding for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee's expedited review of the International Joint Commission's Plan 2014 in any spending package that may come to the House floor this month.

Though a small investment from the American government, the importance of this study is significant for our constituents along the shore of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Communities along this watershed have experienced increasingly high water levels and subsequent flooding over the past several years, and many public and private property owners are still at risk of severe damage from high water levels. Lake Ontario is unique in that the water levels – and thereby the risk of flooding – can be mitigated by outflows from the Moses-Saunders Dam on the St. Lawrence River.

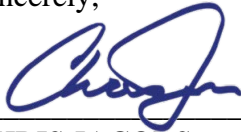
These outflows are governed by Plan 2014, the set of rules and regulations that governs outflows from Lake Ontario through the Moses-Saunders Dam located on the St. Lawrence River. The body that administers these outflows, the International Joint Commission (IJC), has initiated a two-phase expedited review of Plan 2014 through its Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee (GLAM). This process has allowed the diverse stakeholders impacted by Plan 2014 to give substantive input toward the goal of comprehensively reviewing Plan 2014.

Phase I, which Congress has already funded, is currently underway. This prong of the review is assessing outflows when the IJC has released water under its current deviation authority under Plan 2014. Phase II, which we are asking you to fund today, will be a 3-year study of the Plan 2014 rules and operations under extreme conditions moving forward.

Including this money is consistent with what your committee has already included in the version of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee's reported legislation and in the House-passed H.R. 7608 – State, Foreign Operations, Agriculture, Rural Development, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to seeing what the House Appropriations Committee produces in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



CHRIS JACOBS
Member of Congress



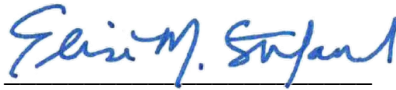
JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress



JOSEPH D. MORELLE
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BRINDISI
Member of Congress



ELISE STEFANIK
Member of Congress