

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Over a year ago, the International Joint Commission referred Plan 2014 to the U.S. State Department, and strongly urged them to adopt it immediately. This plan was developed with input from hundreds of experts and thousands of citizens over the course of more than a decade.

More than one year later we are still waiting, while some of New York's most precious resources – clean water, a healthy St. Lawrence River, and ecosystems that provide our hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation – face continued degradation.

As a New Yorker, I am asking you to publicly support Plan 2014 and break the gridlock in Washington. It is time for action, and we know you can get something done. I support Plan 2014 because it represents an important investment in New York's economy, our environment, clean water and a resilient shoreline.

While opponents continue to rely on fear tactics and misinformation, supporters know that Plan 2014 is a once-in-a-generation chance to restore the health of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario for all New Yorkers. For the past 50 years under the current water management system, flooding and erosion have been ongoing problems. Plan 2014 can help with these problems by rebuilding shorelines, but no regulation plan can eliminate the challenges of living on the shore of a great waterbody. Opponents who confuse Plan 2014 with current vulnerabilities are doing a disservice to our state.

The simple truth is that doing nothing is not an option. Further delay does not protect shoreline property owners, but it will continue to do damage to the fragile Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River watershed. Plan 2014 will help restore 64,000 acres of wetlands, boost hydropower production and increase the resilience of hundreds of miles of shoreline in the U.S. and Canada. It is a net economic winner for New York, pumping millions into our state economy through increased tourism, hunting, fishing, and recreational boating.

Your leadership on this issue is critical now to protect the River and Lake for future generations.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]