

Re: Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Plan 2014

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I write to express strong support for Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Plan 2014, which was developed with input from hundreds of experts and thousands of citizens. I support Plan 2014 because of its ability to restore and protect one of the US and Canada's most precious freshwater resources – Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Plan 2014 is a once-in-a-generation chance to restore a critical freshwater resource. Plan 2014 will help protect against extreme water levels, restore tens of thousands of acres of wetlands, boost hydropower production and increase the resilience of hundreds of miles of shoreline in the U.S. and Canada.

Thriving wetland habitats support highly valued recreational opportunities, filter polluted run-off, and provide nurseries for fisheries and wildlife. Ecosystem health was not considered in the 1950s when decisions were made to artificially compress the natural variability of levels of Lake Ontario. Wetland habitats and key species of fish, birds and mammals have suffered. Plan 2014 will begin to reverse that damage.

We urge approval of Plan 2014 – as it was referred by the IJC – as soon as possible. If such an opportunity is lost due to delayed implementation of Plan 2014, the next opportunity may not arise for decades.

Sincerely,