



Save The River[®]

Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER[®]

*Protecting the St. Lawrence River through Advocacy, Education and Research since 1978
...now and for generations to come.*

March 9, 2020

Dear Representative Stefanik,

Your support for Plan 2014 was instrumental in advancing the prospects of plan adoption, which was a vital benefit to the River communities by giving a voice to the environment and recreational boaters. And those who actually examine the facts of the matter know that the unfortunate timing of the implementation of Plan 2014 coincided with the beginning of a cycle of years of extreme high water, caused by five years of record precipitation throughout the Great Lakes and Ottawa River basins.

[This](#) recent March 6 Watertown Daily Times editorial speaks clearly and directly to an issue that is very important to Save The River, as well as riparians and business owners along the Upper St. Lawrence River.

Save The River urges you to take a stand against the legislation that would allow residents to sue the IJC over Plan 2014. One of the key strengths of Plan 2014 is the inclusion of an adaptive management review process being managed by the GLAM committee. The committee has finally received the additional funding necessary to accelerate its work. We believe that the GLAM committee should be encouraged to perform their review as rapidly as possible, taking into account comments from all stakeholders.

It is our understanding that the The International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSLRB) has been deviating from Plan 2014 to allow a higher outflow from the Moses Saunders Dam that would have been allowed under the prior 1958dd plan. This is being done to bring as much relief as possible to shoreline owners and businesses that serve the people living along the River and Lake Ontario. Further, the IJC and ILOSLRB have publicly stated their intentions regarding a later start to shipping in 2020.

The River community needs your voice to bring reason and patience to this issue. You have been a staunch supporter of many environmental causes affecting the River. We ask you to be the champion of Plan 2014, and stand up against these ill conceived bills that will take resources away from finding ways to improve Plan 2014. Lawsuits such as the ones proposed by Representatives Brindisi and Katko and Governor Cuomo will be costly, time consuming, and counterproductive in bringing any improvements to the water levels management process.

I look forward to hearing what you can do to help stop these ill conceived bills and lawsuits. Thank you in advance for your help on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

John Peach
Save The River, Executive Director
Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper

*Save The River envisions a healthy Upper St. Lawrence River that provides safe drinking water,
is home to a thriving range of indigenous species, and supports sustainable economic activity.*