



December 19, 2007

The Rt. Hon. Herb Gray
Chair, Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

Irene Brooks
Acting Chair, U.S. Section
International Joint Commission
1250 23rd Street, NW, Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20440

Dear Mr. Gray and Ms. Brooks,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, on the issue of declining water levels in Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron and Georgian Bay, a matter of great urgency to municipalities and a number of other sectors.

As you are well aware, the economic, environmental and social impacts of declining lake levels are already being felt by many, including commercial fisheries, marinas and shippers, as well as recreation enthusiasts, property owners, and municipalities. Some of our members are already drawing up plans to relocate their water intakes in response to the anticipated continued decline in lake levels.

We understand that there is scientific consensus that climate change and glacial rebound are contributing factors to declining lake levels. There is also scientific debate over the degree to which erosion in the St. Clair River is contributing to dropping lake levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan.

As a bi-national association of mayors with members throughout the Upper Lakes region, we wish to underscore the importance to municipalities of the issue of water levels and the need to move forward expeditiously with the IJC Upper Lakes Study.

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Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair

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In particular, it is essential that an assessment of the impact of erosion on water flows in the St. Clair River be conducted in an objective, transparent, and timely manner to the satisfaction of all parties.

Above all, we would ask that the IJC provide its advice to the Canadian and U.S. Governments as soon as possible so that any decisions on necessary actions to regulate water levels in the Upper Lakes may be taken without further delay.

We will continue to closely follow the progress of the IJC Upper Lakes Study Group through our membership on the Public Interest Advisory Group.

Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Becker,
Mayor, City of Racine
Chair, GLSLCI

Lynn Peterson
Mayor, City of Thunder Bay
Vice-Chair, GLSLCI

cc. Hon. Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State
Hon. Maxime Bernier, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs

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