



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

**STEVE HAWLEY**  
Deputy Minority Leader  
139<sup>th</sup> District

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April 24, 2019

Senator Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

I am writing regarding the urgent need for the Senate to move forward and place The International Joint Commission nominees on the Senate calendar for confirmation votes. As you know the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported the nominations of former New York State Assemblymember Jane Corwin, Rob Sisson and Lance Yohe to fill the United States' three seats on the six-member International Joint Commission. Former member Assemblymember Jane Corwin is a very good friend of mine and is well versed in the issues our area faces with the rising waters of Lake Ontario.

Water levels on Lake Ontario are at 246.86 feet, compared to the peak of 249.10 in 2017. The lake has risen five inches in the past 10 days. Part of the rise in the lake levels comes from the inflow coming in, which is typical this time of the year based on water flowing out of the Ottawa River. However, if this continues, the few residents who survived the flooding in 2017 with minimum damage may not this year. Increased erosion will continue to decrease the assessed value of the shoreline properties and more homeowners will have the expense of installing destroyed break walls to protect homes. Local businesses that struggled through 2017 may not survive another year.

I am confident that you will take into consideration all of the critical concerns I have outlined and urge the Senate to move forward with the nominations. I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

**STEVE HAWLEY**  
Member of NYS Assembly  
139th AD

SMH:esb

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