

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Chairman Frelinghuysen,

While you negotiate the funding for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2018, we respectfully request that you include language that requires the State Department to report on the damages to the shoreline of Lake Ontario caused by the flooding during 2017. The extensive damages caused by flooding is a very important issue within our districts in Upstate New York.

As part of President Obama's legacy building effort, his Administration swiftly and suspiciously passed a plan to regulate Lake Ontario's water levels after it had been stagnant for years. This plan, known as Plan 2014, has caused millions of dollars in damage to properties, businesses, and communities along the Lake Ontario's southern shoreline. It is imperative that we understand the true damage this plan has caused our shoreline communities.

In July of last year, Representative Hal Rogers, Chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee included the following language in his manager's amendment to the overall bill:

Lake Ontario shoreline.—Not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on damages to the shoreline of Lake Ontario as a result of flooding during 2017, including an assessment of damages attributable to the implementation of Plan 2014 by the International Joint Commission. The report shall also review and include options for providing compensation to shoreline property owners adversely affected by such flooding during 2017.'

As you are working through the funding for the remainder of FY18, we respectfully request the inclusion of the above language in any such omnibus agreement. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our offices.

Sincerely,



CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress



CLAUDIA TENNEY
Member of Congress



JOHN KATKO
Member of Congress