

RESOLUTION ON WATER LEVEL REGULATIONS

WHEREAS the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River water level regulation plan 1958-D implemented by the International Joint Commission and the St. Lawrence River Board of Control (for the good of Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway shipping, the generation of hydroelectric power at the Moses-Saunders Power Project, and riparians) omits several critical interest groups in its criteria, including the environmental and recreational industry;

WHEREAS extent and diversity of coastal wetland habitat in the 1000 Islands region have noticeably declined since water levels regulation and the damming of seasonal levels' fluctuation began on the St. Lawrence system;

WHEREAS historic wetland and island habitat throughout the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River system have experienced drastic change as a result of water level regulation;

WHEREAS the St. Lawrence northern pike fishery in the 1000 Islands has suffered noticeable declines in the period of regulation, and northern pike population declines have been linked to loss of spawning and nursery habitat resulting from reduced seasonal fluctuations;

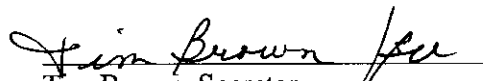
WHEREAS Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River tourism and angling are multi-million dollar industries whose success hinges on the diversity and availability of the system's natural resources;

WHEREAS the Levels Reference study submitted to the International Joint Commission by the Levels Reference Study Board on March 31, 1993 contained a Phase II directive for further and more specific study on effects of water levels regulation in the system, such as: "examining in a systemic context the effects... of the measures it considers on... shore property... fish, wildlife and other environmental aspects... recreation and tourism"; or "the Board is encouraged to use improved analytical techniques which would best represent the changing conditions and socio-economic values in the Great Lakes region..."

WHEREAS Save the River, Inc., NY State Rep. John McHugh, and former NY State Attorney General Dennis Vacco, among others, have requested that the International Joint Commission and the St. Lawrence River Board of Control initiate science-based impact studies to re-evaluate current and proposed water level regulation criteria, based on the rise in influence of other interest groups since regulation began;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the International Joint Commission is asked to fulfill the recommendations and objectives of Phase II of the Levels Reference Study for continued examination of the interests and issues identified, undertake science-based impact analyses of current and future water levels regulation plans, and release the results of these investigations to the public for review and input.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF GREAT LAKES UNITED ON JUNE 13, 1999.


Tim Brown, Secretary