



November 20, 2019

The Honorable Jane Corwin, Chair
The Honorable Robert Sisson, Commissioner
The Honorable Lance Yohe, Commissioner
International Joint Commission
U.S. Section
1717 H Street, NW S. 835
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to share our concern over the possible disruption of maritime commerce to Indiana and Ohio ports on the Great Lakes. It is our understanding that the International Joint Commission (IJC) is considering additional options to provide flood relief to areas of upstate New York on Lake Ontario by increasing water flows through the Moses-Saunders dam on the St. Lawrence River above what was approved earlier this summer. High outflows create unsafe navigation conditions on the river and will require the U.S. and Canadian governments to suspend shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Seaway shipping to and from Indiana and Ohio ports is critical to Midwest manufacturers and farmers. We oppose any disruption to shipping that would stop international traffic for the remainder of the 2019 navigation season. With only weeks remaining before the Seaway closes for the winter, there is too little time for businesses to react to a disruption in the supply chain.

As you consider options for 2020, we ask that the IJC fully assess the economic impacts of its decisions on our states, businesses and workforce. Further, we ask that the IJC quantify the potential benefits of each action under consideration.

We are sympathetic to the economic damage high water levels have caused on Lake Ontario; however, it makes little sense to multiply those negative impacts by significantly disrupting commerce to our states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Holcomb".

Eric Holcomb
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine
Governor

CC: The Honorable Mike Pompeo, United States Secretary of State
The Honorable Elaine Chao, United States Secretary of Transportation

