June 1, 2017

Honorable John Smith
Town of Ontario
1850 Ridge Road
Ontario, NY 14519

Dear Supervisor Smith,

I am writing to inform you of a survey being conducted by Cornell University and New York Sea Grant to document and organize information related to the impacts of high water levels on waterfront properties along southern and eastern Lake Ontario.

All individuals, businesses, municipalities or organizations that have been or could potentially be affected by high water levels on Lake Ontario are eligible to participate in this survey. As documenting the effects of high water levels on waterfront properties is the first step to eliminating or mitigating future impacts, I encourage you and your constituents to consider participating in this survey. I have also enclosed a flyer from Cornell University providing further information on the survey and its potential uses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this important information. Please do not hesitate to contact my Syracuse District Office at 315-423-5657 if I can be of assistance with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

John Katko
Member of Congress (NY-24)
2017 Lake Ontario Water Level Impact Survey

Given the record water levels on Lake Ontario and the expected duration of associated flooding events, New York Sea Grant has awarded rapid response funding to Cornell University to develop and conduct a standardized high water impact survey in the areas along southern and eastern Lake Ontario. This effort is in response to stakeholder requests for a standardized method to collect data on the impacts of high water levels on waterfront properties.

Who should take the survey:
Anyone with property that is on, or connected to, Lake Ontario, even those who have not yet experienced impacts. This includes residents, businesses, municipalities, agencies, etc.

Immediate benefits of the survey:
- collect standardized information on high water level impacts that will allow for lake-wide reporting
- identify areas that are most vulnerable to high water levels for future planning
- document impacts of this high water event

Potential long-term uses for survey data:
- use to leverage funds for making communities, businesses and private properties more adaptable to high water levels
- validate an existing flood risk model that could inform community-level flood resiliency planning

How to access the survey:
To take the survey visit: https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6RNKD5WAM0Hz3U1 Electronic surveys are strongly encouraged. However should alternate arrangements be necessary, please contact Mary Austerman at 315-331-8415.

For more information:
To learn more about how results from this survey will/could be used contact Scott Steinschneider or Rich Stedman. For more information about accessing the survey and more short-term uses of survey data, contact Mary Austerman.

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