



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 26, 2012

Ms. Lana Pollack
Chair, U.S. Section
International Joint Commission
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 615
Washington, DC 20440

Dear Ms. Pollack:

On behalf of the United States Government, I wish to express my thanks for the International Joint Commission's *15th Biennial Report on Great Lakes Water Quality (Report)*. I commend the Commission for the obvious effort that went into the *Report*, and for the Commission's thoughtful recommendations pertaining to both the substance of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (Agreement) and possible improvements to the Agreement's implementation.

The U.S Government made extensive use of the recommendations in the *Report* during our recent negotiations with Canada to update the Agreement. We hope that the Commission is pleased with the amended Agreement, which was signed on September 7, 2012.

With the negotiations behind us, the United States Government will now turn to implementation of the revised Agreement. We look forward to working with the Commission as the United States and Canada continue our efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Martinez".

Lee Martinez
Director
Office of Canadian Affairs