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July 26, 2016

Commissioner Gordon Walker
Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
22nd Floor, 234 Laurier Ave West
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

Commissioner Lana Pollack
U.S. Section
International Joint Commission
2000 L St. NW, Suite 615
Washington D.C. 20036

Dear Commissioner Walker and Commissioner Pollack,

On behalf of the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States, we would like to express our appreciation for the Commission's report: A Water Quality Plan of Study for the Lake of the Woods Basin. We were pleased to receive the Commission's advice and recommendations, transmitted to Governments in January 2015.

Canada and the United States have carefully reviewed the recommendations provided by the Commission. Based on this review, Canada and the United States have decided that the preferred approach to addressing water quality issues in the basin is for governments—including the states and provinces—to develop and implement a binational science plan for the basin. The governments reached this conclusion in part due to the significant ongoing investment by the State of Minnesota in scientific study in its share of the basin.

The funding announced in the Canadian 2016 Budget regarding the response to the Lake of the Woods Plan of Study is to be provided to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to undertake the Canadian portion of this binational science plan. The U.S. portion of the plan is to be led and coordinated by the State of Minnesota, in close consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 office. We are confident that a binational science plan will enable the Canadian and U.S. governments to determine the phosphorous reductions required to address toxic and nuisance algae in the Lake of the Woods.

Through this binational approach, Lake of the Woods residents will benefit from nutrient monitoring and trans-jurisdictional coordination and collaboration on science already underway. The science undertaken for Lake of the Woods will contribute to a larger body of research that could benefit those beyond this Basin.

In addition, given the important relationship the Commission has built with stakeholders in the basin, we recognize that the Commission has a valuable role to play in helping governments

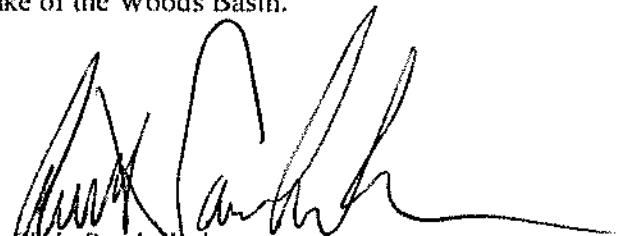
achieve their goals for the Lake of the Woods. We would like to work closely with you to further define the role for the Commission, including with respect to stakeholder engagement and consultation processes to help achieve our goals.

The governments greatly value the work of the IJC, both as an advisor and as an important contributor to the management of transboundary water issues. We look forward to discussing the role of the Commission in the governments' work in the Lake of the Woods Basin.

Sincerely,



Christopher Wilkie
Director, U.S. Transboundary Affairs Division
Global Affairs Canada



Iris Sandrolini
Director, Office of Canadian Affairs
United States Department of State

CC: Ms. Camille Mageau, Secretary, Canadian Section, International Joint Commission
Mr. Chuck Lawson, Secretary, American Section, International Joint Commission