

August 20, 2024

Dear LCC Members, Donors, Volunteers, and Partners,

I am writing to let you know that after nearly four decades at the Lake Champlain Committee (LCC) I will retire at the end of 2024. I am deeply honored to have had this wonderful job. Lake Champlain is a constant source of wonder, beauty, and sustenance in my life, and I feel very grateful for the privilege of serving as LCC Executive Director. *While I love my LCC work, I now have three young grandchildren and want to be there for them, playing outdoors, and helping to nurture their environmental ethic.*

We have made important progress in our work to protect and restore water quality, increase climate resilience, safeguard habitat, and provide public access. We have forged strong partnerships and coalitions across the region. Our comprehensive community science programs engage people in data gathering and monitoring to track ecosystem health and influence policy and regulatory actions. Our participation in legal actions, when necessary, helps ensure that laws are properly enforced. We are taking steps to integrate environmental justice and equity into our programs.

LCC is in a strong financial position with talented and committed Board members, staff, and volunteers and opportunities to further expand our programs and reach. This is an exciting time to bring on a new Executive Director to build on our more than sixty-year track record of advocacy, education, and stewardship.

The LCC Board has established an Executive Director Succession Task Force and is working with a consultant to hire a new leader before my departure. <u>Here is a letter from LCC Board Chair Gary</u> <u>Kjelleren about my retirement</u> along with a <u>press announcement</u>. You can find information about the <u>job posting here</u>.

Thank you for your personal commitment to lake protection and restoration. *The dedication and support of LCC members, volunteers, partners, Board, and staff has been an ongoing source of inspiration to me.* There is still much work ahead. The lake will always need active stewards like you. I look forward to continuing to play a role in LCC's mission after my retirement but in a different way and to trading time in meetings for more time on the water.

"Swim" Song

As part of saying goodbye to this phase of my lake work, I plan to take a swim at as many public beaches as possible before my December 31, 2024 departure as Executive Director. If you'd like

to join me in any of these dips in the lake, please email me at lorif@lakechamplaincommittee.org.

Sincere appreciation for your ongoing involvement. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as LCC Executive Director.

With gratitude,



