



Save The River®

Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

*Protecting the St. Lawrence River through Advocacy, Education and Research since 1978
...now and for generations to come.*

July 22, 2019

Via email

Dear Administrator Bowles,

Over the past few months Save The River has met with numerous groups and individuals about water levels on the St. Lawrence River. As you know, Save The River supports Plan 2014 because of its environmental and recreational boating benefits and hopes to see it remain in force while the Plan is reexamined during the adaptive management review process.

A clear message that we hear when meeting and communicating with our 1000 members and 15,000 followers on both sides of the River is that it is time to demand that the Seaway immediately implement a patterning program of several days open and several days closed to shipping to allow the International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board to increase the outflow amount to the maximum of 11,500 cms - or more. The 1993 Seaway patterning procedure established the precedent for such a program. Riparians along the River and Lake have endured enough during this period of historic flooding, and it is time that shipping shoulders some of the burden felt by property owners.

While we hear that shipping claims that closing the Seaway would cost them \$50 million per day, we know that our businesses on both sides of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario are suffering huge losses during the peak of a very short season. The waters of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario are shared by many different stakeholders, and it is time that shipping shares some of the losses being incurred by riparians in the spirit of cooperation that often occurs in times of flooding.

We hope the St. Lawrence Seaway Development and Management Corporations will consider these requests and act upon them immediately. Property and business owners have suffered too much during this historic flooding which has been caused by record setting precipitation, and Save The River hopes to see the maximum action taken now to relieve some of their misery and lower the levels of Lake Ontario and the Upper St. Lawrence River several inches.

Sincerely,

John Peach
Executive Director, Save The River
Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper

cc: Representative Elise Stefanik
Senator Schumer
Senator Gillibrand
Senator Ritchie
IJC Commissioners Corwin & Beland

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