



Save The River's October 23 Letter to the Seaway

Good morning,

As we move further into fall on the River, we have now received two rejections from the Seaway in response to Save The River's call to embrace a program of patterning of shipping in an effort to further lower water levels. With water levels remaining almost 16" above long term averages and the Great Lakes still at or near record high levels, **it is time to call for an early closure to shipping to allow for the release of maximum outflows prior to the formation of ice on the River.**



[On Wednesday, October 23 we sent this letter](#) to the Seaway Administrators requesting that the shipping season close on December 1 in order to give the International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSRLB) the opportunity to increase the outflow of water before the onset of winter.

Twice in the last four months (in letters dated July 22 and October 1) we have called on the Seaway Administrators to implement a program of patterning that would have required shipping to stop for consecutive days, allowing for an increase in outflows. Twice our request for patterning was denied, leaving us with no alternative except to call for the early closure of the shipping season.

We are asking, for the third time, that the shipping industry shoulder their share of the burden caused by the water levels.

We encourage you to write emails to Seaway administrators, International Joint Commissioners Corwin and Béland, Governor Cuomo, and your state, provincial, and federal Representatives and Senators urging them to support the early closure of the shipping season. Their email addresses (sometimes via office staff representatives) are linked here:

- [Terence Bowles](#) - St. Lawrence Seaway President and CEO

- [Craig Middlebrook](#) - St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation Deputy Administrator
- [Jane Corwin](#) - U.S. Commissioner and Chair of the International Joint Commission
- [Pierre Béland](#) - Canadian Commissioner and Chair of the International Joint Commission
- [Governor Andrew Cuomo](#)
- [Senator Kirsten Gillibrand](#)
- [Senator Chuck Schumer](#)
- [Congresswoman Elise Stefanik](#)
- [New York Senator Patty Ritchie](#)
- [New York Assemblyman Mark Walczyk](#)

Your voice is needed to tell these administrators and elected officials how you feel about water levels.



Thank you,

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

For over 40 years Save The River has been the voice for the St. Lawrence. We will always stand to protect the health of the River but we can't do it without your support.

[Stand with us as the voice for the St. Lawrence River by becoming a member or making a donation today.](#)

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Protecting the St. Lawrence River through advocacy, education and research



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