



January 27, 2022

Brian U. Stratton
Director of Canals
NYS Canal Corporation
30 S. Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Mr. Stratton:

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Canal New York Marketing & Business Alliance and boaters utilizing the New York State Canal System for navigation purposes to express our concern regarding the recent announcement that the 2022 canal navigation season will begin May 20. Should the navigation season not commence until May 20 and if the season ends on October 12, the 2022 Canal navigation season would entail only 146 days.

A 146-day season deprives canal communities and the hundreds of businesses and thousands of seasonal workers who depend on an active waterway of precious days that are needed to survive in today's challenging economy. In addition to the need to support commercial operators and recreational boaters whose operations rely on thru navigation on the New York State Canal System, a 200-day Canal navigation season supports dozens of educational and interpretive organizations located along the Canalway with the opportunity to offer programs to user groups as diverse as student groups and senior travelers.

Inasmuch as Canal NY is appreciative of the Canal Corporation's aggressive infrastructure repair schedule as well as the willingness of the Canal Corporation to issue possibly both pre-season and post-season navigation permits for tour boat operators, the 146-day schedule will also deter boaters traveling the Great Loop from using the NYS Canal System. Loopers are an economically significant customer group for our canal communities and attractions, including restaurants and overnight accommodations.

A Canal navigation season beginning May 11 would provide greater uniformity through the Canal System and would provide more consistency in marketing the Canal to all users. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Granoff
Chairman

OUR MISSION: To serve as the one generally accepted private sector entity dedicated to tourism, marketing, legislative advocacy and business collaboration, to support existing and new business opportunities within New York State's canal communities.

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