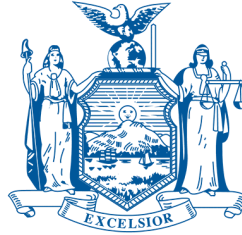


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**THE SENATE
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March 10, 2021

Jim Bradley, Regional Chair
Regional Municipality of Niagara
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Dear Chair Bradley;

In anticipation of the March 25th, 2021, Regional Municipality of Niagara meeting discussing Ramsar designation for the Canadian portion of the Niagara River, I write to express my environmental values, my support for Ramsar designation, and my hope that the United States and Canada will soon partner in establishing the first transboundary Ramsar Site on this continent.

As a State Senator from Western New York, I am well aware of the ecological importance, cultural heritage, and personal pride that the Niagara River Corridor holds for Americans and Canadians in our shared region. Last fall, I was awarded a fourth consecutive perfect score from the non-profit Environmental Advocates Action, an organization that tallies the environmental votes of all state lawmakers during each legislative session. As such, my record reflects how deeply I care for the environment and how environmental degradation may affect people, animals, plants, and places. Furthermore, as a member of the State Committees on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business and on Housing, Construction, and Community Development, I can attest that a Ramsar designation in no way hinders development and, in fact, only encourages growth, tourism, and regional pride.

A Ramsar designation is exciting and something to be proud of; we are lucky to live near and share an ecological setting like the Niagara River Corridor worthy of such an honor. I applaud the Niagara Region for their efforts thus far, and stand ready to assist in whatever way I can to move toward a formal decision to nominate the Canadian side of this ecosystem for Ramsar designation.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Ryan
New York State Senator, District 60