To whom it may concern,

I am writing to plead the case for the Mohawk River lock system to be left open longer, like it used to be before the Power Authority took over. The river was open from the months of April to the end of November. It is currently only open from mid-May until Columbus Day. This decision has unfortunately taken 3 months of outdoor activity away. The Mohawk River is an incredible resource for people who live near the river. Hundreds of fishermen use the river as do other pleasure boaters. Late October to the first week in November is the best time to fish for smallmouth bass. Pleasure boaters also love to cruise the river and view the autumn foliage as well. It is a beautiful time of year. For many years there was a Snowball Open Fishing Tournament that drew boats as far away as New Jersey and Pennsylvania. These people would come and stay in hotels, buy food, and buy gas in our area. This helps the local economy. Overall, it is an incredible natural resource for us to take advantage of for longer than the 5 months its open. We would love it if the river was open as long as it used to be. If that is not an option, we plead with you to advocate for it to be at least open until the end of October. October is the best month of fishing in this area and also the best time for pleasure boaters to enjoy the beauty along the river including its magnificent views. We appreciate any assistance and hope that a return to the longer open time frame can happen.

Sincerely,