

# Privatize the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC)

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016–2020	2016–2025
\$32	\$33	\$33	\$33	\$34	\$35	\$35	\$36	\$37	\$38	\$165	\$346

## Heritage Recommendation:

Privatize the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC). This proposal saves \$32 million in 2016, and \$345 million over 10 years.

## Rationale:

Created in the Wiley–Dondero Act of 1954, the SLSDC is a government-owned entity charged with maintaining and operating a part of the Saint Lawrence Seaway that is within United States territory. The seaway opened in 1959.

Canada, which also borders the seaway, privatized its section in 1998, eliminating any future taxpayer funding for its maintenance and operation activities. Privatization of this kind in the U.S. would encourage productivity and competitiveness, and mean lessening the burden on taxpayers. Congress should follow Canada’s example and privatize the SLSDC—a reform that is long overdue.

## Additional Reading:

- Emily Goff, “How to Cut \$30 Billion More from the THUD Bill,” Heritage Foundation *Issue Brief* No. 3984, July 1, 2013, <http://www.Heritage.org/research/reports/2013/07/how-to-cut-from-transportation-housing-and-urban-development-appropriations>.
- Chris Edwards, “Downsizing the Federal Government: Department of Transportation, Timeline of Growth,” Cato Institute, undated, <http://www.downsizinggovernment.org/transportation/timeline>.

## Calculations:

Savings are expressed as budget authority and were calculated by using the FY 2014 enacted spending levels as found on page 1,020 of “Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015,” March 2014, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/dot.pdf>. The FY 2014 enacted spending was increased at the same rate as discretionary spending for 2016–2025, according to the CBO’s most recent August 2014 baseline spending projections.