



GREAT LAKES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20319-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

We the undersigned members of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (GLLC) are writing to express appreciation for the extensive work the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) put into the Great Lakes-Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS). The GLLC is a nonpartisan, binational organization representing the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces that are home to the Great Lakes. One of our primary goals is the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes. Preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species is one of our highest priorities.

In 2012, many of us wrote to you to urge swifter action to complete the GLMRIS report. We are pleased that the USACE was able to complete the draft report ahead of the original schedule. The report identified eight alternative plans for reducing the risk of aquatic invasive species moving between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds, but did not identify a preferred option. We urge the USACE to take the next step of identifying a preferred option and implementing effective near-term and long-term measures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species between the two watersheds.

We recognize that controlling Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes is a national problem that is shared by all affected jurisdictions, including the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces located in the Great Lakes basin. Several states – including Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin – have undertaken the effort and the expense to address vulnerabilities in their own waterways. We urge the federal government to work with the states on these efforts and to continue implementing the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework.

As legislators, we also recognize the need to mitigate impacts on users of the waterways that are affected by implementation of a prevention plan. For this reason, we feel it is very important for any long-term solutions to be developed in close consultation and collaboration with the region's stakeholders, including the state legislatures. If the federal government organizes an advisory committee to help guide efforts toward a long-term solution, we request that the GLLC have the opportunity to appoint representatives to serve on that committee.

We appreciate the USACE's efforts to prevent the introduction of Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes. We look forward to publication of a final report that identifies a preferred option followed by aggressive action by the federal government to work with stakeholders to implement that option.

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy

March 31, 2014

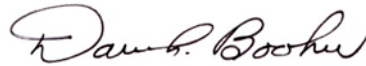
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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Minnesota State Senator Ann Rest at 651.296.2889 or Lisa Janairo at 920.458.5910.

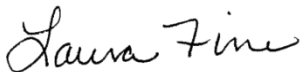
Sincerely,




Senator Ann H. Rest, GLLC Chair
Minnesota



Senator Darwin Booher, GLLC Vice-Chair
Michigan



Representative Laura Fine
Illinois



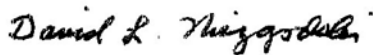
Representative Robyn Gabel
Illinois



Representative Elaine Nekritz
Illinois



Representative Earl L. Harris
Indiana



Representative David Niezgodski
Indiana



Representative Terry Brown
Michigan



Senator Bruce Caswell
Michigan



Senator Goeff Hansen
Michigan



Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood
Michigan



Representative Marcia Hovey-Wright
Michigan



Representative Eileen Kowall
Michigan



Representative Al Pscholka
Michigan



Representative Sarah Roberts
Michigan



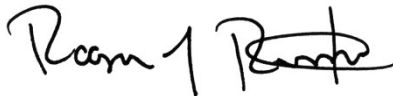
Representative Wayne Schmidt
Michigan



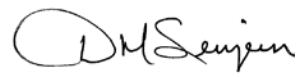
Senator Christine Eaton
Minnesota



Senator Sandra Pappas
Minnesota



Senator Roger Reinert
Minnesota



Senator David Senjem
Minnesota



Senator Charles Wiger
Minnesota



Representative Robert Hagan
Ohio



Representative Dan Ramos
Ohio



Representative Greg Lucas
Pennsylvania



Representative Curtis Sonney
Pennsylvania



Representative Penny Bernard Schaber
Wisconsin



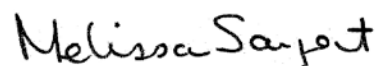
Representative Eric Genrich
Wisconsin



Representative Cory Mason
Wisconsin



Representative Tod Ohnstad
Wisconsin



Representative Melissa Sargent
Wisconsin