



GREAT LAKES
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

March 9, 2012

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Darcy:

We the undersigned members of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (GLLC) are writing to urge you to expedite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 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 spread of aquatic invasive species is one of our highest priorities.

As state and provincial legislators from the Great Lakes region, we understand the environmental, economic, and cultural significance of the Lakes to the people of our region. We experience firsthand the damage to the Lakes caused by aquatic invasive species. We also contribute to the high costs of preventing new introductions and controlling or attempting to eradicate the invasive species that are already here.

We recognize that the Corps has a significant task in GLMRIS, with the project encompassing two Focus Areas, 39 different species, and 27 categories of possible controls. Our principal concern at this time, however, is keeping Asian carp from invading Lake Michigan through the Chicago Area Waterway System. We are concerned that, if the Corps adheres to its current schedule and publishes a final report in 2015, it might be too late to keep the carp out of Lake Michigan.

In January, the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative released a report, "Restoring the Natural Divide," on the feasibility of separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds. We hope this study will inform the Corps's work on GLMRIS and help the Corps compress its schedule for completing the project.

We appreciate the Corps's hard work trying to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. We would appreciate your help in moving the GLMRIS project forward on a faster track. We look forward to your response.

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.

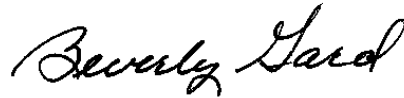
Sincerely,

Senator Ann Rest, GLLC Chair
Minnesota

Representative Karen May
Illinois



Senator Ed Charbonneau
Indiana



Senator Beverly Gard
Indiana



Representative Joan Bauer
Michigan



Senator Darwin Booher
Michigan



Representative Eileen Kowall
Michigan



Representative Richard LeBlanc
Michigan



Representative Sean McCann
Michigan



Senator Arlan Meekhof
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Senator John Moolenaar
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Representative Amanda Price
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Senator Tonya Schuitmaker
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Representative Dale Zorn
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Representative Jim Abeler
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Representative Lyndon Carlson
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Senator D. Scott Dibble
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Representative Andrew Falk
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Representative Marion Greene
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Representative Mindy Greiling
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Representative Alice Hausman
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Senator Linda Higgins
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Senator John Howe
Minnesota



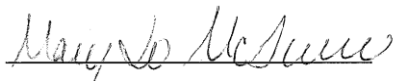
Senator Keith Langseth
Minnesota



Representative Leon Lillie
Minnesota



Senator Warren Limmer
Minnesota



Senator Mary Jo McGuire
Minnesota



Representative Denny McNamara
Minnesota



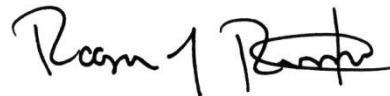
Representative Joe Mullery
Minnesota



Representative Erin Murphy
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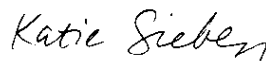
Representative John Persell
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Senator Roger J. Reinert
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Senator Tom Saxhaug
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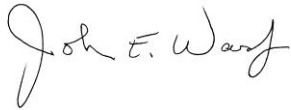
Senator Katie Sieben
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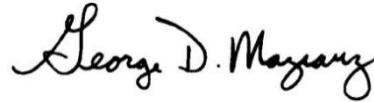
Representative Linda Slocum
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Representative Jean Wagenius
Minnesota



Representative John Ward
Minnesota



Senator George D. Maziarz
New York



Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes
New York



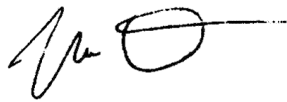
Representative John E. Barnes, Jr.
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Senator Edna Brown
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Representative Ted Celeste
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Senator Nina Turner
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Senator Mark Wagoner
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Senator Jane Earll
Pennsylvania

Representative Florindo J. Fabrizio
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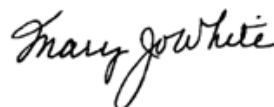
Representative Patrick J. Harkins
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Representative John Hornaman
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Representative Curt Sonney
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Senator Mary Jo White
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