July 11, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As members of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (GLLC), we are writing to request swift action in the federal government’s efforts to help to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic nuisance species in the Great Lakes. The GLLC is a nonpartisan, binational organization of state and provincial legislators representing the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces that are home to the Great Lakes. One of our principal goals is the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes, with aquatic nuisance species being one of our greatest concerns.

In 2010, the U.S. Army of Engineers (USACE), Rock Island District, initiated the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS). As part of the GLMRIS, the USACE undertook the Brandon Road Study to assess the viability of establishing a single point to control the one-way, upstream transfer of aquatic nuisance species from the Mississippi River basin into the Great Lakes basin near the Brandon Road Lock and Dam located in Joliet, Illinois.

Since April 6, 2015, the USACE has been working on the Brandon Road Project Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The USACE publicly confirmed February 28, 2017, as the release date for the TSP. That report is now being delayed instead of being released for public comment and review. The issue of the introduction of invasive species – and most importantly, Asian carp – into the Great Lakes ecosystem is a ticking time bomb. Every day we wait increases the likelihood of severe damage to our Great Lakes ecosystem and economy.

Combined with the initial indication that your administration will eliminate funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the delay in completing the Brandon Road Project TSP puts at grave risk the largest surface freshwater system in the world and an economic driver for our entire nation. Therefore, the undersigned members of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus request that the TSP intended for release earlier this year be published for comment in the Federal Register without further delay.
Thank you for taking the time to understand our position. We would appreciate a response to help us understand where you stand on this important issue for the Great Lakes region.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Lisa Janairo of the GLLC staff at 920.458.5910 or ljanairo@csg.org.

Sincerely,

Representative Cory Mason, Wisconsin

Senator Darwin Booher, Michigan

Senator Julie A. Morrison, Illinois

Representative Laura Fine, Illinois

Representative Robyn Gabel, Illinois

Representative Sonya Marie Harper, Illinois

Representative Rita Mayfield, Illinois

Representative Juliana Stratton, Illinois

Senator Mike Bohacek, Indiana

Senator Ed Charbonneau, Indiana

Senator Rick Niemeyer, Indiana

Senator David L. Niezgodski, Indiana

Senator Karen R. Tallian, Indiana

Representative John Bartlett, Indiana

Representative B. Patrick Bauer, Indiana

Representative Earl Harris, Jr., Indiana

Representative Linda Lawson, Indiana

Representative Scott Pelath, Indiana
Senator Steve Bieda, Michigan

Senator Goeff Hansen, Michigan

Senator Wayne A. Schmidt, Michigan

Representative Winnie Brinks, Michigan

Representative Christine Greig, Michigan

Representative Donna Lasinski, Michigan

Representative Steve Marino, Michigan

Representative Andy Schor, Michigan

Representative Mary Whiteford, Michigan

Senator Ann H. Rest, Minnesota

Senator Charles W. Wiger, Minnesota

Senator Vincent Gregory, Michigan

Senator Ken Horn, Michigan

Senator Dale Zorn, Michigan

Representative Pam Faris, Michigan

Representative Kevin Hertel, Michigan

Representative Dan Lauwers, Michigan

Representative David Maturen, Michigan

Representative Curt VanderWall, Michigan

Senator Tony Lourey, Minnesota

Senator David H. Senjem, Minnesota

Representative Rob Ecklund, Minnesota
Representative Sandra Masin, Minnesota

Representative Liz Olson, Minnesota

Representative Jennifer Schultz, Minnesota

Representative Linda Slocum, Minnesota

Representative JoAnn Ward, Minnesota

Assemblyman Angelo J. Morinello, New York

Senator Cliff Hite, Ohio

Representative John Patterson, Ohio

Representative Kent Smith, Ohio

Representative Patrick J. Harkins, Pennsylvania

Representative Curtis G. Sonney, Pennsylvania

Senator Janet Bewley, Wisconsin

Senator Fred A. Risser, Wisconsin

Senator Chris Larson, Wisconsin

Representative Jimmy Anderson, Wisconsin

Representative Gary A. Hebl, Wisconsin

Representative Nick Milroy, Wisconsin

Representative Tod Ohnstad, Wisconsin

Representative Mark Spreitzer, Wisconsin

Senator Lena C. Taylor, Wisconsin

Representative Lisa Subeck, Wisconsin

Representative Dana Wachs, Wisconsin
Representative JoCasta Zamarripa, Wisconsin
Representative Josh Zepnick, Wisconsin

Senator Donne Trotter, Illinois

cc: Director Mick Mulvaney, OMB
Members of Congress from the Great Lakes States