



November 10, 2009

Mr. Cameron Davis
Senior Advisor to the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Great Lakes National Program Office
77 W. Jackson Boulevard (G-17J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3511

Dear Mr. Davis:

The International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada is gravely concerned that actions currently underway to keep Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes may not be sufficient or may not be implemented quickly enough to be successful.

The Great Lakes are a binational treasure, and we must not allow this resource to be irreparably damaged by Asian carp. The Commission previously has brought this matter to the attention of the governments of the United States and Canada under its alerting capacity pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and its responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Recently, we learned that the electric fish dispersal barrier system in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, while operational to some extent, is still months away from completion and that there is a very real danger the barrier could be breached or bypassed by the Asian carp. Most recently, evidence of the carp has been found less than a mile from the barrier. Despite having spent over \$18 million dollars and 16 years of effort to keep the carp out of the Great Lakes, we now risk defeat by a single power outage or heavy rain storm.

Numerous local, state and federal agencies have worked collaboratively through the Barrier Advisory Panel to assess the problems and recommend solutions. We strongly support the panel's recommendation to construct a physical separation between the Des Plaines River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, initially as a temporary emergency barrier followed by completion of a more permanent physical separation between the two waterways sufficient to contain at least a 100-yr flood event.



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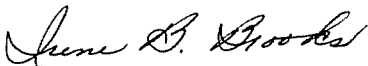
We also support further action to close off the Illinois and Michigan Canal and Deep Run Creek in a manner that would permit storm water discharge while precluding the upstream passage (and barrier bypass) of Asian carp. Further, a rapid response effort must be undertaken as soon as possible to push back the Asian carp and allow the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct scheduled maintenance on Barrier IIA and complete construction of Barrier IIB.

These near term actions, along with longer term measures recommended by the panel to improve monitoring and reduce the pressure on the barrier system must be taken immediately to protect the health and security of the Great Lakes.

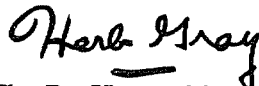
State, local and federal agencies all agree that urgent preventative action is needed to stop the destructive carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Accordingly, we urge you to take immediate action to cut through any and all administrative and bureaucratic obstacles that exist in the Environmental Protection Agency, so that the EPA and the other agencies involved can execute the plans without delay. Response personnel must be given every opportunity possible to eliminate the risk of this invasion by Asian carp and avoid almost certain disastrous economic and environmental consequences to the Great Lakes, a unique resource shared between the United States and Canada. This is a battle that we cannot afford to lose.

We look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

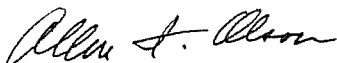
Sincerely,



Irene B. Brooks
Chair, U.S. Section



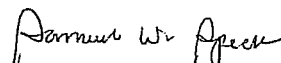
The Rt. Honorable Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.
Chair, Canadian Section



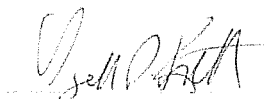
Allen I. Olson
Commissioner



Pierre Trépanier
Commissioner



Samuel W. Speck, Jr.
Commissioner



Lyle Knott
Commissioner

Similar letters also sent to:

The Honorable John McHugh, Secretary, U.S. Army
Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary for Civil Work, US Army
Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, Commanding General, US Army COE
The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, EPA
Ms. Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality, White House
The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois

Cc: Mr. Edwin Nolan, U.S. Department of State
Mr. Stéphane Jobin, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Dr. Gary Gulezian, Director, National Great Lakes Office, EPA