



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST SENATE COALITION

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

April 26, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Dirksen Building, Room 184
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Dirksen Building, Room 188
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander:

As members of the Great Lakes delegation, we are writing to request that you add language to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2014 (FY14) so that the Army Corps of Engineers can continue to implement emergency measures to stop the spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes.

- **We urge the Committee to extend the Corps of Engineers' emergency authority to prevent the interbasin transfer of aquatic invasive species through FY14. We also ask the Committee to include report language to ensure that the emergency authority is modified such that it is not limited to only the Chicago Area and Ship Canal, but to any area the Secretary determines to be appropriate to prevent aquatic nuisance species from dispersing into the Great Lakes by way of any hydrologic connection between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin. (Corps of Engineers-Civil, General Provisions)**

The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion fishing industry that provides hundreds of thousands of jobs. Keeping invasive species, including the destructive Asian Carp, out of the Great Lakes is critical to the health of the lakes and the jobs they support. Congress provided authority to the Corps of Engineers in FY12 (in Section 105 of the appropriations bill) to implement certain emergency measures to prevent Asian carp from bypassing the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and entering the Great Lakes. The FY13 Continuing Resolution extended this authority, and we ask you to extend it again through FY14, and modify it such that the Corps could implement any emergency measures, without geographic limitation. We seek to ensure that the Corps has the flexibility to address any emergency situation including those outside the Chicago area such as hydrologic connections in other states.

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and if you have any questions, please have your staff contact Alice Yates (Senator Levin) at 224-2683 or Sarah Walter (Senator Kirk) at 224-2854.

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk, Co-Chair
United States Senator

Carl Levin, Co-Chair
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

Proposed Language for Protection of the Great Lakes from Invasive Species

During the fiscal year period covered by this Act, the Secretary of the Army is authorized to implement measures recommended in the efficacy study authorized under section 3061 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1121) or in interim reports, with such modifications or emergency measures as the Secretary of the Army determines to be appropriate without regard to geographic limitations, to prevent aquatic nuisance species from dispersing into the Great Lakes by way of any hydrologic connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River Basin.

This language is being requested to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species, including the destructive Asian carp. The Great Lakes fishery is valued at \$7 billion, and the lakes provide drinking water to over 40 million people. We must do all we can as a nation to provide this valuable treasure.