

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write today to express our support for full funding of the Brandon Road Feasibility Study through the Army Corps of Engineers in your FY 2017 budget. This study aims to assess the viability of preventing the one-way, upstream transfer of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from the Mississippi River into the Great Lakes Basin by establishing a single control point at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam located in Joliet, Illinois. Brandon Road is a crucial control point for the movement of AIS such as Asian Carp, and the feasibility study presents an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of a range of control technologies so we can ensure their compatibility with transportation, the natural environment, and other important factors on the waterway.

The Great Lakes region recognizes the serious threat that Asian carp and other invasive species can have on drinking water, jobs, health, and way of life for more than 30 million people who depend on the Great Lakes. Furthermore, the presence of Asian carp in the Great Lakes could cause declines in abundances of native fish species, harming the overall ecosystem. As you know, on April 6, 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, initiated the GLMRIS Brandon Road Study to address the growing AIS problem. The study is estimated to cost a total of \$8.2 million and take up to 46 months to complete a report. This is our best tool for moving forward and developing a comprehensive approach to protect the environmental and economic health of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin. Given the challenges and lengthy timeline of establishing a long term solution for the AIS problem, advancing the Brandon Road study should be one of the Corps' top priorities for achieving greater protection of our Great Lakes.

Again, we urge you make the Brandon Road Feasibility study a top funding priority in the FY 2017 budget. We appreciate all you have done to prioritize the Great Lakes health and environmental stability. Moving forward, we ask for your support of the resources and actions needed to achieve the strongest possible protections against the movement of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes.

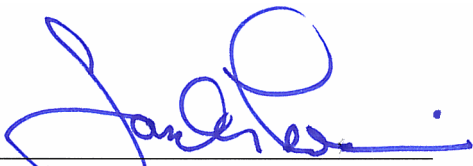
Sincerely,



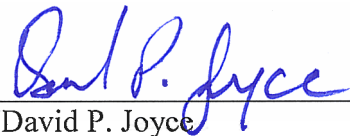
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

cc:

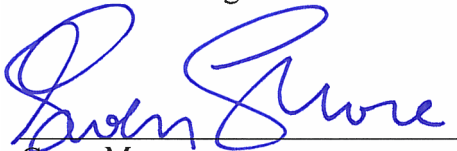
Shaun Donovan, Director, The Office of Management and Budget
Gary Waxman, Examiner, The Office of Management and Budget



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



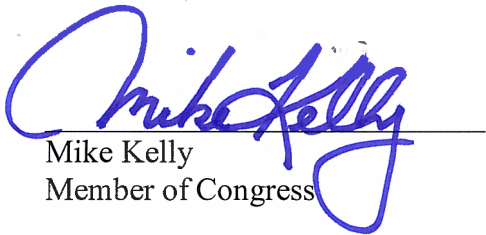
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
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Luis V. Gutiérrez
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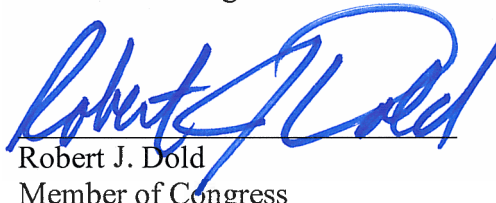
Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



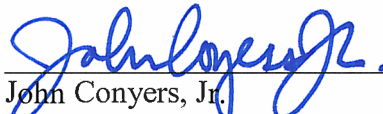
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



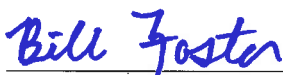
Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress



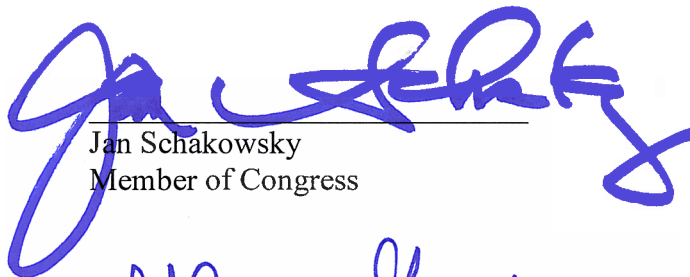
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



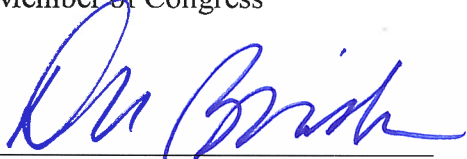
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



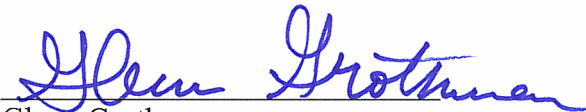
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



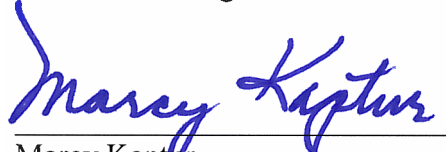
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



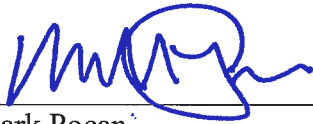
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



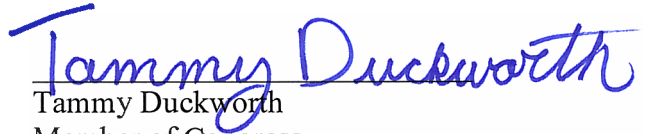
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



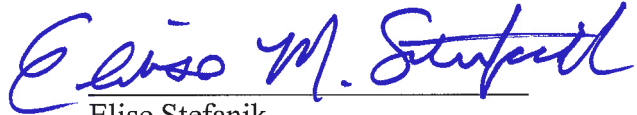
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Brenda Lawrence
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress