

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 7, 2017

Mr. Ryan A. Fisher  
Acting Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Mr. Fisher,

As Members of Congress from the Great Lakes region, we write to offer our formal comments regarding the draft Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brandon Road report.


Asian carp, considered nuisance species by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, have voracious appetites, lay hundreds of eggs at a time and can easily and quickly expand their habitats. They have decimated native fish populations throughout the Mississippi River basin. The importance of protecting our vulnerable Great Lakes freshwater system from this disastrous invasive species cannot be overstated. The timely completion of the Brandon Road Study is an essential next step in a process initiated to safeguard the economic viability of our region's \$7 billion sportfishing market, \$16 billion boating industry, and \$18 billion hunting and wildlife observation market. Asian carp's introduction into this system would have serious economic consequences for these and related industries across the entire Great Lakes region.


As Representatives of this imperiled national treasure who appreciate the urgency of this situation, we fully expect that the USACE will follow the original timeline, determined at the start of the Brandon Road Study in April 2015, which requires the Chief's Report to be completed and released no later than February 2019.

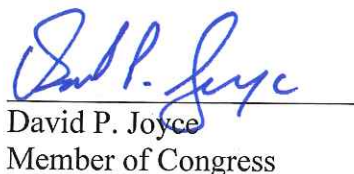
Asian carp are on the doorstep of the Great Lakes system, and we have a small but critical window of opportunity to stop them there. Once they are in the Lakes, it will be too late. This threat became increasingly clear this past June, when a live silver carp was found beyond the current electric barriers in the Chicago Area Water System (CAWS), only 9 miles from Lake Michigan. Further delay only increases the likelihood that this threat becomes a full scale, irreversible inundation of this highly destructive invasive species.

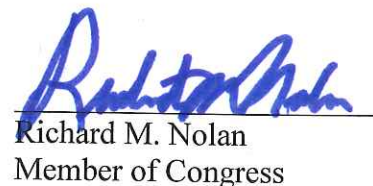
We thank the USACE for your commitment to preventing the upstream transfer of invasive species and look forward to the completion of the Chief's Report by February 2019.

Respectfully,

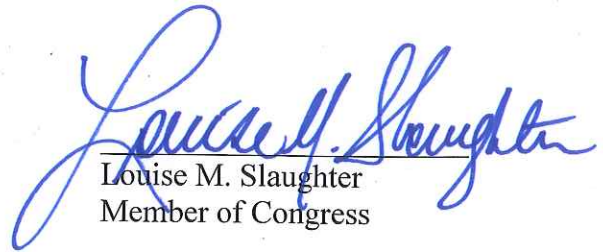
  
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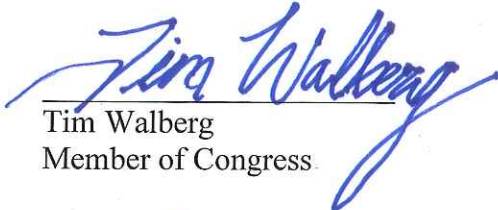
  
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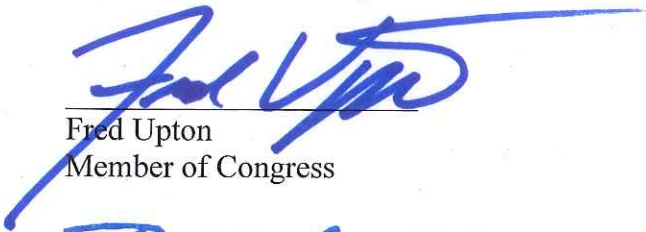
  
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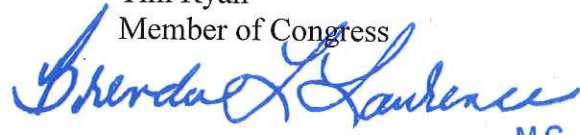
  
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