



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE FISHERY RESOURCES

October 7, 2002

Hon. Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Committee on Appropriations
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Pete Domenici, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Committee on Appropriations
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Domenici:

In follow-up to my earlier letter to you, I wish to reiterate that Congress has an historic opportunity to protect the Great Lakes from a potentially devastating group of invasive species: Asian carp. I am writing to urge that the final fiscal 2003 appropriations bill for the Corps of Engineers include \$500,000 for the operation and maintenance of the aquatic nuisance species dispersal barrier in the Chicago and Sanitary Ship Canal. This amount is currently allocated in the House full committee markup for fiscal 2003. The Senate markup contains no such provision. This barrier—authorized under the National Invasive Species Act—is the only line of defense against these carp and other invasive species. The \$500,000 provided by the House markup is absolutely critical to the protection of the Great Lakes.

Three species of carp are migrating from the Mississippi River system to the Great Lakes basin via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Voracious eaters, these fish have the potential to seriously damage or destroy the Great Lakes ecosystem, posing a danger to the fish communities and disrupting the food web. We know from past experience that invasive species can and will destroy the Great Lakes environment and cause significant economic harm. This barrier is our only chance to keep these species out of the lakes. The barrier also protects the Mississippi River from migrations from the Great Lakes.

The House allocation is required immediately to protect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River from cross-invasions. Government management agencies and the public are united in urging Congress to provide funds for this barrier. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ald. Bernard J. Hansen
Chairman, U.S. Section

Cc: Co-chairs, House and Senate Great Lakes Task Forces



Great Lakes Fishery Commission

ESTABLISHED BY CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE FISHERY RESOURCES

October 7, 2002

Hon. Sonny Callahan, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Committee on Appropriations
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Peter Visclosky, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Visclosky:

Thank you very much for your efforts to date to protect the Great Lakes from a potentially devastating group of invasive species: Asian carp. I appreciate your subcommittee's action to include \$500,000 for the operation and maintenance of the aquatic nuisance species dispersal barrier in the Chicago and Sanitary Ship Canal. Unfortunately, the Senate markup contains no such provision. This barrier—authorized under the National Invasive Species Act—is the only line of defense against these carp and other invasive species. I am writing to urge that the final fiscal 2003 appropriations bill include the \$500,000 provided by the House markup. These funds are absolutely critical to the protection of the Great Lakes.

Three species of carp are migrating from the Mississippi River system to the Great Lakes basin via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. Voracious eaters, these fish have the potential to seriously damage or destroy the Great Lakes ecosystem, posing a danger to the fish communities and disrupting the food web. We know from past experience that invasive species can and will destroy the Great Lakes environment and cause significant economic harm. This barrier is our only chance to keep these species out of the lakes. The barrier also protects the Mississippi River from migrations from the Great Lakes.

The House allocation is required immediately to protect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River from cross-invasions. Government management agencies and the public are united in urging Congress to provide funds for this barrier. Thank you for your continued help and support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ald. Bernard J. Hansen
Chairman, U.S. Section

Cc: Co-chairs, House and Senate Great Lakes Task Forces