

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2012

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Secretary
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
United States Army Corps of Engineers
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Jackson and Lt. Gen. Bostick:

We write to bring to your attention the Binational Ecological Risk Assessment of Bigheaded Carps for the Great Lakes Basin, a peer-reviewed report by American and Canadian scientists with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

This report sheds valuable light on the disastrous consequences Bigheaded Carp (Asian Carp) pose to the Great Lakes and warns of the imminence of their irreversible introduction into the Great Lakes. It calls for immediate prevention activities to parallel our ongoing long-term efforts to reduce the probability of introduction into the Great Lakes.

This report identifies the Chicago Area Waterway System as the most likely entry point of the Asian Carp into the Great Lakes. The recent decision by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to accelerate its study of how to prevent the spread of these invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds was significant. And, the inclusion of the Stop Invasive Species Act in the transportation authorization bill recently signed into law was also crucial. However, the alarming discovery of six positive eDNA samples for Asian Carp in Lake Erie underscores the need for broader, more aggressive – indeed immediate – action to interrupt this invasion and subsequent ecological consequences.

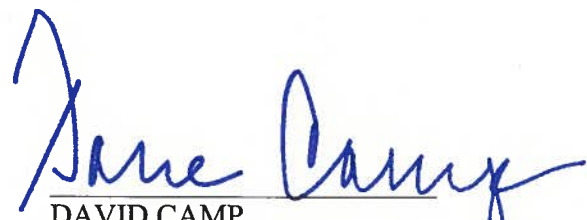
The establishment of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Commission, the vast resources the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has devoted, and works done by non-governmental organizations, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and several other federal and state agencies efforts are evidence of the broad recognition of the scope of this threat. Still, this report's conclusions highlight that while all parties realize the size of the threat, they may not grasp the immediacy with which we must act.

As Members of Congress who represent areas within the Great Lakes Basin that rely on its irreplaceable natural resources, we support the findings of this study and strongly urge immediate action to reduce the threat of Asian Carp and its economic, environmental, and ecological consequences.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress


DAVID CAMP
Member of Congress



PAUL RYAN
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN HOCHUL
Member of Congress



FRED UPTON
Member of Congress



STEVE LATOURETTE
Member of Congress



HANSEN CLARKE
Member of Congress



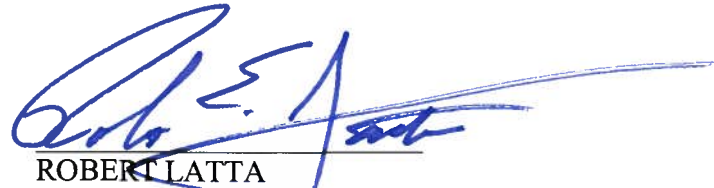
JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress



GARY PETERS
Member of Congress



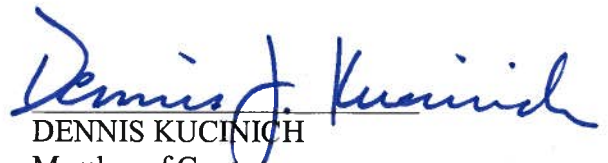
MIKE ROGERS
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