



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST SENATE & HOUSE COALITIONS

GREAT LAKES TASK FORCES

February 3, 2012

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Department of the Army, Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Secretary Darcy:

As Members of Congress who care deeply about the Great Lakes and the economic and environmental benefits this natural treasure provides, we want to call your attention to a report released on January 31, 2012 by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. This report, *Restoring the Natural Divide*, analyzes various engineering options to separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System to prevent inter-basin movement of harmful aquatic invasive species including Asian carp.

The Army Corps of Engineers is conducting its own study, the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS), which is a comprehensive study of multiple aquatic pathways and control strategies, including hydrologic separation of the basins. The new report, *Restoring the Natural Divide*, provides the Corps with a large amount of information concerning engineering design, economic impacts, flood and stormwater management, and water quality impacts that should be of benefit to the Corps' analysis of hydrologic separation. We ask how the Corps will use the thorough analysis provided in this new report, and how the Corps will be able to shorten its timeframe for completing the GLMRIS by incorporating the new information contained in the report.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Carl Levin
U.S. Senator

Candice S. Miller
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator



Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senator



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator



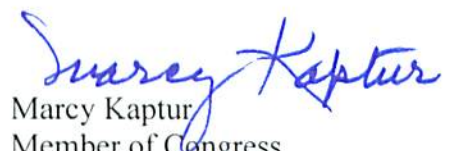
Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Steven C. LaTourette
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress



Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



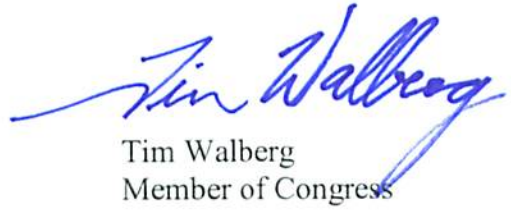
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Dave Camp
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress



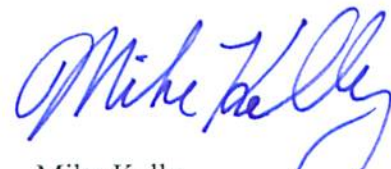
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



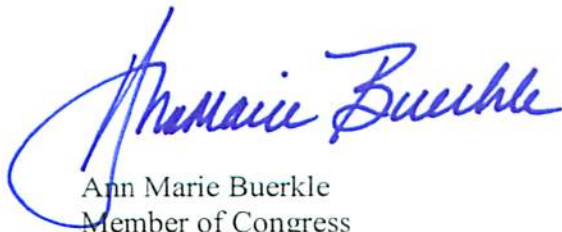
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress



cc: The Honorable Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Mr. John Goss, Asian Carp Director, Council on Environmental Quality