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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Gary Doer
Ambassador
Embassy of Canada
501 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ambassador Doer:

The troubling issue of the illegal trade of live Asian carp into Canada was recently brought to my attention. I have grave concerns over this practice and write you today to better understand Canada's enforcement efforts and to urge stepped up efforts to ensure an end to cross-border smuggling of invasive species.

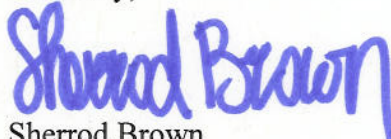
As you know, Asian carp pose a looming threat to the biological diversity, health, and economic growth of the Great Lakes. Great Lakes fisheries in the United States alone generate \$7 billion in economic activity each year. Recreational boating on the Great Lakes helps support more than 58,000 jobs for the states bordering the lakes. For all parties involved, it is clear the introduction of this species could be catastrophic.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in conjunction with the Great Lakes Commission are undertaking studies on how to best establish an ecological separation between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin. Continued research and the development of methods associated with stopping the spread of this invasive species are also ongoing under the auspices of the "Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework."

Yet for all of the hard work being done by wildlife biologists, scientists, and engineers these efforts would be for naught if both sides of the border are not acting in concert to stop the spread of Asian carp. I appreciate the difficulty in stopping smuggling of illegally traded flora and fauna, but the stakes are simply too high for the environment and the economy if Asian carp make it into the Great Lakes.

Clearly, the Great Lakes are a shared resource that bind our countries together. To have our fisheries decimated and waters sullied by a lack of appropriate oversight and enforcement would be a tragedy. I look forward to hearing about the initiatives being implemented by the Canadian government on this critical issue, and how our countries can best work together to protect our waterways.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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