

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall,

As the committee continues to prioritize legislative proposals during the 113th Congress, we respectfully request that you consider an issue critical to the health and prosperity of the Great Lakes region.

Over the past several decades, the spread of Asian carp in the Great Lakes has posed a significant threat to the ecologic balance and economic viability of the Great Lakes fisheries that generate \$7 billion annually. As our economy continues to slowly recover, it is necessary to ensure that preventive measures are in place to protect our Great Lakes region that supports 1.5 million U.S. jobs.

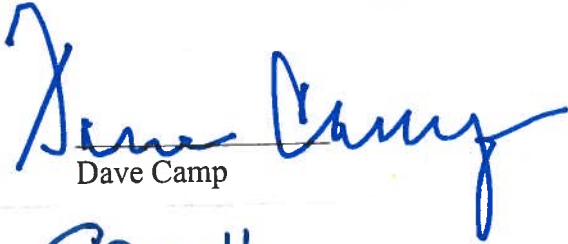
In the 113th Congress, several legislative proposals have been introduced to prevent this invasive species from further damaging our country's largest freshwater resource. The failure to expediently act on this critical issue will present our region with enormous economic hardships. For this reason, we ask that the committee dedicate a legislative hearing on the impact of Asian carp and feasible prevention and control strategies.

The Army Corps of Engineers has taken a lead role in monitoring aquatic species through eDNA testing and other conventional sampling methods. We encourage the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment to examine the projects administered by the Corps and offer guidance for a coordinated federal response. Action is required to ensure the Great Lakes remain a national treasure for generations to come.

We thank you for your leadership and look forward to working with the committee on remediation strategies to control the presence of Asian carp in the Great Lakes region and its tributaries.

Sincerely,

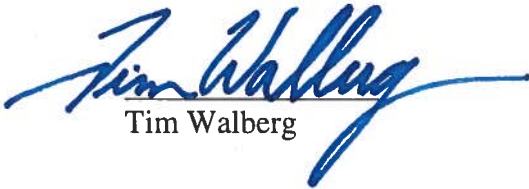

Mike J. Rogers


Dave Camp


Brian Higgins


Dave Joyce


Gary Peters


Tim Walberg


Dan Benishek


John Conyers


Bill Huizenga


Ron Kind


Fred Upton

cc: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment