

Alliance for the Great Lakes – Freshwater Future – Great Lakes United – National Parks Conservation Association – National Wildlife Federation – Natural Resources Defense Council – Ohio Environmental Council – Prairie Rivers Network – Save the River – Friends of the Chicago River – Sierra Club – Save the Dunes – Great Lakes Environmental Law Center – Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council – The Lake Erie Center – Clinton River Watershed Council – River Alliance of Wisconsin – Flow for Water – American Rivers – Minnesota Conservation Federation – Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters – Milwaukee Riverkeeper – Ohio Division, Izaak Walton League of America – Nature Abounds – Shaker Lakes Garden Club – Clean Wisconsin – Michigan United Conservation Clubs – The Watershed Center, Grand Traverse Bay – Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes – Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester Global Environment Committee – Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Audubon Ohio – Clean Water Action-Michigan – River Network – Clean Water Action Minnesota – Izaak Walton League of America – Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition – Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance – Sierra Club Ontario

December 9, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sirs:

We write today to urge you to support the Stabenow Stop Asian Carp amendment to any final appropriations package for the current fiscal year.

The Stop Asian Carp amendment is necessary if our nation is to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from taking over our Great Lakes or Mississippi River. This amendment simply requires the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the study it already has underway (and was authorized under WRDA 2007). Their study, which is an essential step in constructing a permanent solution to the Asian carp threat, is looking at the feasibility of options to prevent the inter-basin transfer of invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

Unfortunately, the Army Corps has said it will not complete this study until 2015. The threat of Asian carp is far too great to wait that long to identify serious solutions that will permanently stop Asian carp and other invasive species if we are to protect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Without the oversight this amendment brings, the Army Corps' own deadline could easily slip, much as it has with other investigations and projects. For example, it took the Army Corps 15 years to study, build, and activate three electrical arrays to repel Asian carp from swimming towards Lake Michigan through the Chicago Waterway System – even as the urgency of the carp invasion had become obvious and too great to ignore.

Now is the time to keep the pressure on the Army Corps. Their feasibility study must be completed without delay. The Stabenow amendment provides the appropriate pressure and oversight to ensure that the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins have the information needed to make decisions on how to re-imagine the Chicago Waterway System. Congress must act now to permanently prevent Asian

carp or any other invasive species from harming our Great Waters that provides drinking water, jobs, income, subsistence, and recreational opportunities for millions of people.

Please support the Stabenow Stop Asian Carp Amendment and include it in any final appropriations package.

Sincerely,

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