

MUCC.ORG

MICHIGANOUTDOORS.COM

Michigan United Conservation Clubs



517-371-1041 2101 Wood Street, PO Box 30235, Lansing, MI 48909 FAX: 517-371-1505

Conserving, Enhancing and Protecting Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoors Heritage since 1937.

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Candice Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
320 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Letter of Support for H.R. 1135: Defending our Great Lakes Act.

Dear Representative Miller,

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) is a non-profit member-based organization with over 250 affiliated clubs and 42,000 members throughout the state of Michigan. Since 1937, MUCC has united citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage through education, communication and advocacy.

We write to you today to support your recently introduced bipartisan legislation, HR 1135 to stop Asian carp and other invasive species from entering the Great Lakes. As you know, invasive species pose a tremendous threat to not only Michigan's fisheries, outdoor recreation and tourism economy but also the Great Lakes region. Michigan's recreational fisheries generate over \$2.5 billion each year and support nearly 38,000 jobs in Michigan alone. While the Great Lakes region supports a \$7 billion fishing industry and a \$16 billion boating industry. It is imperative that we continue to take steps to protect our world-class fisheries and the Great Lakes economy.

This legislation seeks to address the short term needs of preventing the spread of Asian carp through the Branden Road Lock and Dam in Illinois. It is our hope that this legislation will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to use the best possible technology and methods to implement short term fixes to slow the spread of Asian carp while still working on the necessary long term, permanent solutions.

For these reasons MUCC fully supports Congresswoman Miller's H.R. 1135. We applaud your efforts to protect the Great Lakes and your continued support for the hunters, anglers, and trappers of Michigan.

Yours in Conservation,

Daniel Eichinger
Executive Director