



March 9, 2015

Representative Candice Miller
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Miller,

This letter is written on behalf of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, a Chicago-based regional organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Great Lakes for people and wildlife, forever. We write to thank you for your bipartisan introduction of the Defending our Great Lakes Act. We support the Act not only because of the need for expeditious short-term measures to slow the movement of Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species (AIS), but also because building regional support for this bill will help ensure movement toward an effective long-term solution.

The Great Lakes feed an economy rivaling that of nations. It is indisputable that if Asian carp are allowed to enter into the Great Lakes Basin, their impact on the \$7 billion recreational and commercial fishing and \$16 billion recreational boating industries would prove devastating. The Act's call for swift action to implement much-needed, short-term AIS risk reduction control technologies at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site on the Des Plaines River in Illinois is critical.

We also strongly support the Act's mention of additional action in the Chicago Area Waterway System and throughout the Great Lakes Basin to ensure a long-term permanent solution to stop the interbasin movement of AIS between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins. We emphasize that the only permanent and effective means of preventing AIS transfer between the Basins is a physical barrier at their only direct and continuous connection.

This Act is a firm step in the right direction and we stand ready to continue to help you advance policies that protect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Brammeier", is written over a horizontal line.

Joel Brammeier
President & CEO