



March 18, 2015

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

Re: Letter of Support for Defending Our Great Lakes Act

Dear Representative Miller,

I am writing to express the Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) support for H.R. 1135, also known as the Defending Our Great Lakes Act. NRDC is a nonprofit environmental organization with more than 1.4 million members and online activists nationwide. The Act calls for swift action to protect the Great Lakes through implementation of control technologies for aquatic invasive species at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site in Illinois. We believe this site will provide important near term risk reduction to Lake Michigan. We also applaud the Act's requirement that efforts to control aquatic invasive species also protect the high value, critical ecosystem at this site.

Moreover, NRDC strongly supports the Act's declaration that, in addition to immediate control measures, a long-term solution is needed to provide two-way prevention of aquatic invasive species transfer between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. It was Congress' original intent, as expressed in WRDA 2007 and MAP-21, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identify a long-term, two-way solution to stop the threat of aquatic invasive species to these iconic waters. In its response to this charge, in January 2014 the Army Corps identified physical separation as the most effective means of preventing aquatic invasive species transfer between the Basins, though it declined to select a preferred alternative from among the control options laid out in its

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report to Congress. The Defending Our Great Lakes Act picks up where the Army Corps left off by setting out a charge to move forward with this important work.

NRDC thanks you for your commitment to implementing expeditious measures to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from threatening our nation's most important fresh water resource. We also deeply appreciate your work to build consensus among members and stakeholders. We urge you to maintain an open dialogue with delegations from other states in the spirit of securing co-sponsorship, in particular Illinois, and stand ready to help in this effort. We believe this is a step in the right direction and look forward to assisting you advance policies that protect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Henry Henderson  
Midwest Director

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