



March 9, 2015

The Honorable Candice S. Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2210

Dear Representative Miller:

On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation and our 230,000 members and supporters in Michigan, we thank you for introducing the *Defend Our Great Lakes Act* and wish to express our support for this important legislation.

As you well know, our Great Lakes are facing one of the greatest invasive species threats in decades: Asian carp. They are voracious filter feeders that can grow to more than four feet long, weigh up to 100 pounds and quickly dominate a body of water by gobbling up the same food that sustains native fish populations. Some species are even known to injure boaters, by leaping up to ten feet out of the water. The January 2014 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) GLMRIS study presented steps that can be taken to prevent Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species (AIS) from invading the Great Lakes. The Corps concluded that separating the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River basin is the most effective way to stop carp and other AIS from transferring between the two waterbodies.

Given this urgent need for action, National Wildlife Federation supports your legislation that will help keep Asian carp and other AIS out of the Great Lakes by directing the Corps to shore up our defenses at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. This strategy of authorizing construction of preventative actions at Brandon Road must be coupled with a permanent solution protecting both the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basins.

The *Defend Our Great Lakes Act* will set us on the right path toward addressing a permanent solution to this threat to our quality of life. We thank you for your continued leadership and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Shriberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mike Shriberg
Regional Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center
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