



THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST CONGRESSIONAL COALITION  
**GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE**

December 9, 2008

Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr.  
Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works  
U.S. Department of the Army  
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lt. General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Jr.  
Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314

Admiral Thad W. Allen  
Commandant  
United States Coast Guard  
2100 Second Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Secretary Woodley, General Van Antwerp and Commandant Allen:

We are writing today to express our concern over the fact that the Corps of Engineers has not begun operating Barrier IIa in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. In the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete the construction of a permanent electric dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 provided sufficient funding for the construction and operation of Barrier IIa. However, the Great Lakes still remain vulnerable as additional tests and delays continue to prevent the full operation of the new barrier system.

We understand the need to thoroughly test the safety of the barrier and to establish safety guidelines to protect users of the canal, but these tests have lasted for many months. Meanwhile, Asian carp continue to head closer to the barrier. The potential devastating effects of Asian carp are well documented. They can weigh up to 100 pounds and consume up to 40 percent of their body weight in plankton in one day. The \$7 billion Great Lakes fishery is too important to jeopardize with lengthy delays on a permanent barrier. We therefore ask you to provide us with a detailed work plan and timeline to complete barrier construction and testing, and then to begin operation at full capacity as soon as possible.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator

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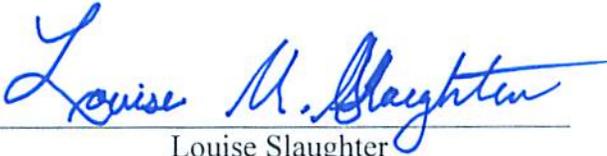
Carl Levin  
United States Senator



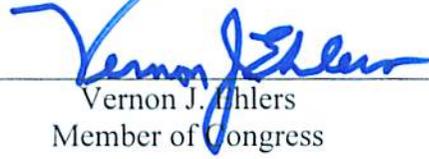
Mark Kirk  
Member of Congress



John Dingell  
Member of Congress



Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Vernon J. Ehlers  
Member of Congress



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Arlen Specter  
United States Senator



Norm Coleman  
United States Senator



Russ Feingold  
United States Senator



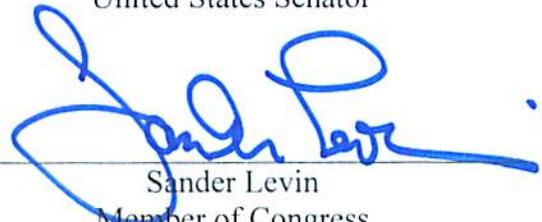
Charles Schumer  
United States Senator



Dick Durbin  
United States Senator



Herb Kohl  
United States Senator



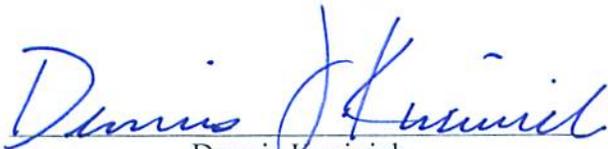
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Steven LaTourette  
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress



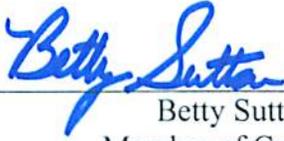
Pete Hoekstra  
Member of Congress



Candice Miller  
Member of Congress



Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress



Betty Sutton  
Member of Congress



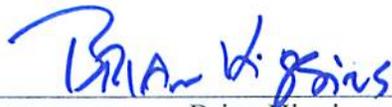
John McHugh  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers (MI)  
Member of Congress



Thomas Petri  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter  
Member of Congress



Luis Gutierrez  
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Carolyn Kilpatrick  
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