



September 27, 2004

The Honorable Ted Stevens  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, H-218  
Washington, D.C. 20515

JIM DOYLE  
Co-CHAIR  
*Governor of Wisconsin*

BOB TAFT  
Co-CHAIR  
*Governor of Ohio*

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*Governor of New York*

TIM PAWLENTY  
*Governor of Minnesota*

ED RENDELL  
*Governor of Pennsylvania*

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Capitol, S-125A  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

As Co-Chairs of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, we are writing to encourage you to support the Great Lakes Congressional delegation's proposal to authorize \$6.825 million in federal funding for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier project in Illinois. This authorization has broad support from many groups, including the administration. Passage of authorizing language is needed before the end of the fiscal year to ensure that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is able to fully complete construction on the barrier in 2004, so time is of the essence.

The Great Lakes form the world's largest freshwater ecosystem. Continued introduction of aquatic invasive species, most particularly the Asian Carp, would have devastating economic and ecological impacts, threatening a sustainable sport fishing industry that generates \$7.3 billion in economic output annually and supports 66,000 jobs in the United States alone.

As you know, the USACE is currently operating a temporary electric dispersal barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to prevent the Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes. However, this barrier is approaching the end of its three-year design life. Before it fails, construction on a second, permanent barrier must be completed in order to deter the Asian Carps' introduction into the Lakes.

While the USACE has initiated construction on this second, permanent barrier under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), there is shortfall that now stands at \$2.4 million. The Great Lakes States are dismayed that the cost of the barrier continues to rise; the \$2.4 million figure is a \$600,000 increase over the amount projected as recently as a week ago. Nevertheless, the Great Lakes Governors stand ready to provide up to \$575,000 for the non-federal match needed to move forward with this critical project to protect our fisheries and tourism economies.

On May 14, 2004, the Great Lakes Governors articulated support for the House and Senate Great Lakes Task Force's appropriations request related to the construction, operation and maintenance of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal dispersal barrier.

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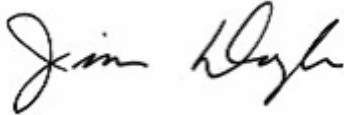
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We continue to urge you to ensure that the federal government provides full federal funding for the following:

- Making the existing demonstration barrier permanent.
- Constructing a second permanent, two-pronged (two electrode arrays) barrier according to the design recommended by the Barrier Advisory Panel.
- Operating and maintaining both barriers.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue of critical importance. We believe progress toward our shared goals for the Great Lakes is essential to the public health and economic vitality of our nation. Should there be questions, please do not hesitate to contact David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, at 312-407-0177.

Sincerely,



Jim Doyle  
Co-Chair,  
Council of Great Lakes Governors  
Governor, State of Wisconsin



Bob Taft  
Co-Chair,  
Council of Great Lakes Governors  
Governor, State of Ohio

Enclosures

- May 14, 2004 Appropriations Request Letter from the Council of Great Lakes Governors
- September 22, 2004 Letter from U.S. EPA Administrator Michael Leavitt to Governor Jim Doyle and Governor Bob Taft
- September 24, 2004 Letter from the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation