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*Governor of New York*

TED STRICKLAND  
*Governor of Ohio*

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

35 East Wacker Drive  
Suite 1850  
Chicago, IL 60601

Voice: 312-407-0177  
Fax: 312-407-0038  
Web: [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org)  
e-mail: [cglg@cglg.org](mailto:cglg@cglg.org)

March 1, 2007

The Honorable Judy Biggert  
1034 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Biggert:

On behalf of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, I would like to thank you for sponsoring H.R. 553 and assisting us in the effort to prevent the introduction of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes Basin.

As you know, stopping the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species is one of the Great Lakes Governors' shared priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection. Invasive species such as the Asian carp pose a grave threat to our region, and can lead to overwhelming economic and ecological losses for the Great Lakes States and our nation. Without the completion and operation of an effective barrier system in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Asian carp may soon enter the Lakes, causing numerous injuries to recreational boaters and out-competing native species for food and habitat, creating an enormous public safety threat and an irreparable ecological tragedy for the world's largest freshwater system. In addition, the barrier provides protection of the entire Mississippi River Basin from invasive fish in the Great Lakes.

We strongly support legislation authorizing and appropriating Federal funds that would accomplish the following:

- Complete full construction on a permanent dispersal barrier as designed and recommended by the Barrier Advisory Panel,
- Upgrade and make permanent the original demonstration barrier,
- Ensure long term Federal funding and operation of both barriers as a system, and,
- Credit the States for their contributions to this project.

Because the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal is a Federal navigation waterway, it is the responsibility of Congress and the Federal government to ensure that funds exist to protect our entire region and, in particular, the nationally important economy and ecosystem that the Great Lakes support. As you know, the Great Lakes States have made significant financial contributions towards the completion of this project. The State of Illinois has contributed \$1.8 million to date. In addition, when construction was delayed due to Federal funding shortfalls, the other seven Great Lakes States

contributed an additional \$475,000. We thank you for recognizing these contributions and for seeking to reimburse the States.

We applaud your leadership towards protecting the Lakes from all species of Asian carp and other invasive species and look forward to continuing to work with you to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Please do not hesitate to contact David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, if there are questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors