



January 11, 2006

Dear Member of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation:

JIM DOYLE
CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
Governor of Illinois

MITCH DANIELS
Governor of Indiana

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
Governor of Michigan

GEORGE E. PATAKI
Governor of New York

TIM PAWLENTY
Governor of Minnesota

ED RENDELL
Governor of Pennsylvania

BOB TAFT
Governor of Ohio

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

As you know, the Great Lakes are in imminent danger of invasion by Asian carp. Without the completion and operation of an effective barrier system now under construction in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, this aquatic invasive species may soon enter the Lakes. This threatens an enormous and irreparable ecological tragedy for the world's largest fresh water system and for the millions of Americans who depend on the health of those waters.

Last year, the federal government fell short on funding the barrier because of cost overruns and construction delays. The project was slated to be completed only after the Council of Great Lakes Governors and member States stepped forward with an additional \$575,000 to finish the project.

Now, additional construction delays and a shortage of funding again threaten the success of the barrier. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that construction on the permanent barrier is not expected to be completed until spring, and may have additional cost overruns. Regardless, Corps funding for the barrier system (including the existing, "temporary barrier") is scheduled to run out in May 2006 and no further federal funds to date have been committed for this important barrier.

Clearly, the barrier system is a federal responsibility, as the barrier is intended to protect not only the Illinois portion of Lake Michigan, but the rest of the Great Lakes and their tributaries as well. Additionally, the barrier system will protect the Mississippi River Basin from Great Lakes invasive species such as the Eurasian ruffe. Illinois and the other Great Lakes States have already contributed substantial non-federal funds toward construction of the barrier. It is the responsibility of Congress and the Administration to ensure that funds exist to finish barrier construction and to keep the barrier system operating in order to protect not just one State, but the entire region and the nationally important economy and unique ecosystem that the Great Lakes support.

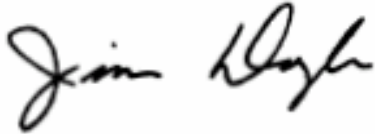
We call upon you and your colleagues to join us in this important fight by quickly passing the necessary authorization and then ensuring sufficient funds are available for construction completion, as well as maintenance and operation after May 2006, through reprogramming, supplemental appropriations or other means. Additionally, we request that you authorize and appropriate \$5 million for construction to replace the current

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temporary barrier with a permanent barrier in FY07, along with \$1 million annually to maintain and operate the barriers as a system. Please call David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, at 312-407-0177 if there are questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "D".

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

CC: The Honorable James M. Inhofe
The Honorable James M. Jeffords
The Honorable Don Young
The Honorable James Oberstar
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
The Honorable David R. Obey