



October 31, 2008

Secretary Robert M. Gates  
U.S. Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Secretary Michael Chertoff  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

JIM DOYLE  
CHAIR  
*Governor of Wisconsin*

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Chertoff:

ROD BLAGOJEVICH  
*Governor of Illinois*

As you know, the Great Lakes are at risk from the grave threat posed by Asian carp and other harmful aquatic invasive species. 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 through the Illinois and Chicago River systems. These carp potentially threaten public safety and the ecological integrity of the world's largest freshwater system.

MITCH DANIELS  
*Governor of Indiana*

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
*Governor of Michigan*

DAVID A. PATERSON  
*Governor of New York*

TIM PAWLENTY  
*Governor of Minnesota*

ED RENDELL  
*Governor of Pennsylvania*

TED STRICKLAND  
*Governor of Ohio*

The Great Lakes Governors, Mayors, Members of Congress and many others have worked tirelessly to secure Federal support for the barrier, and each of the Great Lakes States have made financial contributions to support the barrier when construction was delayed due to Federal funding shortfalls. Nearly one year has passed since Congress enacted the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, which provided the necessary authorization and appropriations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for completion of the barrier. Yet despite these enormous efforts, the Great Lakes still remain vulnerable as the U.S. Coast Guard performs additional tests and delays continue to prevent the full operation of the new barrier system. While we recognize there are safety concerns related to the barrier, these concerns must be more quickly assessed and resolved.

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

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. More than 35 million Americans depend on the Great Lakes, and our region's commercial and sport fishing industries contribute significantly to our regional economy. Our region, and our nation, cannot afford continued delay.

Sincerely,

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

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CC: Administrator Stephen L. Johnson, Chair, Great Lakes Interagency Task Force;  
Great Lakes Congressional Task Force