



July 29, 2009

The Honorable Carl Levin
Congressional Great Lakes Task Force Co-Chair
269 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Voinovich
Congressional Great Lakes Task Force Co-Chair
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

JIM DOYLE
CHAIR
Governor of Wisconsin

MITCH DANIELS
Governor of Indiana

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Governor of Michigan

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Governor of Pennsylvania

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Governor of Ohio

DAVID NAFTZGER
Executive Director

Dear Senator Levin and Senator Voinovich:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Governors, I would like to commend your recent introduction of S.1421, the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act. This Act, which would add the bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*) to the list of injurious species under the Lacey Act, represents an important step in protecting the Great Lakes and the rest of our nation's waters from the devastating effects of these harmful, non-native species.

As you know, bighead carp along with the other Asian carp represent one of the most imminent and most dangerous threats currently facing the Great Lakes. They compete with native species for food, destroy fish habitat, transfer parasites and diseases, and reduce biodiversity. It is important to note that bighead carp will be difficult, if not impossible to eradicate if they become established in the Great Lakes. And, because it is nearly impossible to restore ecosystems once they are disturbed by invaders such as bighead carp, they pose an unprecedented threat to our region's environment, quality of life, and our economy.

The Great Lakes Governors continue to prioritize protecting the Great Lakes from bighead carp, the other Asian carp, and other potentially injurious invasive species. We look forward to our continued work together to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Please do not hesitate to contact David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, at 312-407-0177 if there are questions.

Sincerely,

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

35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1850
Chicago, IL 60601

Voice: 312-407-0177
Fax: 312-407-0038
Web: www.cglg.org
e-mail: cglg@cglg.org

CC: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, The Honorable James Inhofe