



November 14, 2003

The Honorable George V. Voinovich  
317 Senate Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Voinovich:

BOB TAFT  
CHAIRMAN  
*Governor of Ohio*

ROD BLAGOJEVICH  
*Governor of Illinois*

JIM DOYLE  
*Governor of Wisconsin*

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
*Governor of Michigan*

JOSEPH E. KERNAN  
*Governor of Indiana*

GEORGE E. PATAKI  
*Governor of New York*

TIM PAWLENTY  
*Governor of Minnesota*

ED RENDELL  
*Governor of Pennsylvania*

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Acting Executive Director*

On behalf of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, I encourage you to co-sponsor and support S. 525 and H.R. 1080, the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA). The Great Lakes Governors are committed to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and other valuable waters within our States. Stopping the introduction and spread of non-native aquatic invasive species is one of our nine priorities for Great Lakes restoration and protection outlined in the October 1, 2003, letter that we recently sent to members of Congress. In short, NAISA is critical to protect the ecological integrity and economic future of the Great Lakes region.

NAISA is a tremendous opportunity to increase the national focus on prevention and control of harmful species that affect the environment and economy of our country. In the Great Lakes region, we have been stricken by sea lampreys, zebra mussels, round gobies, and many other invading species. The impacts are real, affecting a major share of our nation's industrial and agricultural output and threatening the well-being of 25 million Americans who depend directly on the Great Lakes for water, recreation and food.

I know that my colleagues from the Great Lakes region and States across the country will be very interested in your deliberations on the proposed legislation. I encourage Congress to act on this issue because we recognize that a consistent nationwide prevention strategy is more effective than individual State government strategies. However, should the bill fail to adequately address this national concern, I would predict more States passing laws targeting sources of aquatic invasive species in their States and regions.

NAISA represents a meaningful improvement in our national policy on invasive species. I hope that you and your colleagues will help promote the environmental protection of the Great Lakes by making NAISA a legislative priority and enacting it early next year. If there are questions, please contact David Naftzger with the Council of Great Lakes Governors at 312.407.0177.

Sincerely,

Bob Taft  
Chair  
Council of Great Lakes Governors

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