



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Senator
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Al Franken
Senator
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walz
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kline
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
127 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Congresswoman
United States House of Representatives
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Keith Ellison
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michele Bachmann
Congresswoman
United States House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Nolan
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation:

As you know, Asian carp pose an urgent and serious threat to Minnesota's lakes and rivers. We are writing to express our strong support for the legislation sponsored by Senator Klobuchar and Congressman Ellison (Upper Mississippi Carp Act) and Congresswoman McCollum (Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act), and to thank Minnesota's Congressional delegation for introducing and/or supporting this legislation.

The threat of Asian carp is well recognized by the federal government, as evidenced by the significant federal commitment to address this issue in the Great Lakes. Yet, in Minnesota we have had to address this issue with little help from the federal government.

Since 2011, we have hosted four Asian carp summits in Minnesota to bring together stakeholders and develop strategies to address this threat. With the help of stakeholders, we developed an Asian Carp Action Plan and have begun to implement several elements of that Plan.

State efforts include improvements to the Coon Rapids Dam on the Mississippi River, increased monitoring for Asian carp, cost sharing with Iowa for an Asian carp barrier at the lower end of the Iowa Great Lakes, and developing several other barriers in southwestern Minnesota to prevent migration of Asian carp from the Missouri River drainage.

We have also undertaken studies to look at the potential economic impacts of closing the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock, and the economic value of the resources potentially at risk from an Asian carp invasion. The estimated economic impact of closing the lock is \$29 million, based on a report by the Metropolitan Council. While this is substantial, the value of just a portion of Minnesota's aquatic resources at risk from Asian carp is about \$75 million.

One of our biggest priorities has been working with the Army Corps of Engineers to get approval for a deterrent barrier at Lock and Dam 1 (the Ford Dam). The DNR plans to contract for the design of an electric barrier to submit to the Corps for approval. However, it is uncertain if the Corps will approve an electric barrier due to public safety and lock infrastructure concerns. In addition, an electric barrier will involve long-term operating costs and would be less than 100% effective.

The uncertainty and cost associated with an electric barrier underscores the importance of closing the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock and providing more support from our federal partners. Closing the lock is the best and likely, only long-term solution to keep Asian carp out of the Upper Mississippi River watershed.

Further, it is important that we act quickly to get authority for lock closure. Asian carp populations have increased rapidly in states to the south. We continue to see periodic captures of these fish in our waters, the most recent being two silver carp captured near Winona about one month ago. We must act now, before these fish start increasing and reproducing in Minnesota's waters.

Thank you again for your support and leadership on this issue. Please feel free to contact us if you need any help or support from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Mark Dayton
Governor



Tom Landwehr
Commissioner, MN DNR