

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

***URGENT***

July 15, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-131, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan, Chairman  
The Honorable Robert F. Bennett, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
186 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Dorgan, and Ranking Member Bennett:

In our March 26, 2010 Great Lakes Task Force letter, we requested that you include in the fiscal year 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill certain Army Corps of Engineers projects that would improve the Great Lakes. As part of that letter was a request that you include the same bill language that was included in Section 126 of the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill authorizing the Army Corps to implement certain emergency measures to prevent Asian carp from bypassing the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to keep them from entering the Great Lakes.

Last week, we learned, and EPA confirmed, that Asian Carp have been discovered in an area of the Wabash River in Indiana that is about 20 miles from a potential connection point with the Great Lakes basin. During times of flooding in an area near Fort Wayne, Indiana, the Wabash River could connect via tributaries and drainage ditches with the Maumee River, which flows into Lake Erie. This is of great concern to us.

In light of this discovery, as you draft the fiscal year 2011 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, we ask that you include language similar to Section 126 of the fiscal year 2010 bill. The needed language would authorize the Army Corps to

implement emergency measures to prevent the Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes via any hydrologic connections that could occur during times of flooding, including via connections between the Wabash River and the Maumee River located in Indiana.

Thank you for your attention to this request to address a very urgent situation.

Sincerely,

  
George V. Voinovich

  
Carl Levin

  
Debbie Stabenow

  
Sherrod Brown

  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.

  
Charles E. Schumer

  
Roland W. Burris

  
Amy Klobuchar