

November 18, 2011

Governor Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

We applaud your leadership in convening a high-level group to address the very real threat Asian carp pose to the future health and recreational use of Minnesota's waters. We greatly appreciate the work that went into the September and November reports that form your "Asian Carp Action Plan."

We believe that your actions to date reflect the urgency of this threat, and applaud the clarity of the Action Plans in recommending the specific actions necessary for preventing the introduction and spread of Asian carp to Minnesota waters. As your administration moves forward, we urge you to update these reports in order to establish and add clear goals and objectives for Minnesota's policy to control and manage Asian carp. We believe the **goal** of your administration should be: **To prevent the introduction and spread of Asian carp in Minnesota waters.**

The following three objectives should accompany these goals in priority order:

- *Prevent the spread of Asian carp above the Ford Dam (Lock #1);*
- *Significantly reduce the risk of Asian carp passage above Lock #19 (Keokuk, IA); and*
- *Monitor and control carp populations if established between Lock #19 and Lock #1*

The actions recommended in the reports are consistent with this goal and these objectives. We fully support the recommended actions in the task force report and strongly urge you to prioritize and implement the actions identified in the task force report immediately.

However, the task force report does not go far enough to protect Minnesota's waters. The ability to temporarily and permanently close the locks at St. Anthony Falls and the Ford dam need to be of the highest priority in any final Asian carp plan. As clearly explained by MN DNR in Appendix E of the task force report:

"Lock and Dam #1 (Ford Dam) and Upper St. Anthony Falls are the only locations on the commercially navigable portion of the Upper Mississippi River in Minnesota where it is possible to establish 100% effective barriers to fish passage."

Establishing these barriers is truly critical to any comprehensive approach to stopping Asian carp and protecting Minnesota's waters. We further agree with the conclusions of the MN DNR described in Appendix E that all efforts should be made to close these upper locks if Asian carp are detected upstream. Of critical importance is the ability to close the most upstream locks. Emergency closure authorization is needed prior to the opening of the locks in spring, 2012. Our

organizations and our members are willing to assist your administration in working closely with Minnesota's congressional delegation to provide this authority for the Army Corps of Engineers.

We also support an analysis of the social and economic benefits and costs of a permanent lock closure. Based on past experiences, we recommend that the state initiate and fund an independent study to be completed by the opening of the locks in 2012, rather than rely on a lengthy U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study. A state sponsored study is far more likely to be completed in a timely fashion.

The undersigned organizations represent many thousands of citizens deeply interested in the future health and recreational use of Minnesota's waters. As you move forward with implementation of the significant actions needed to control the introduction and spread of Asian carp in Minnesota you can count on our support. We know that persistence and determination will be needed to achieve success. We look forward to working with you and your staff on the details as this long-term campaign is implemented.

Sincerely,

Vern Wagner
Vice President
Anglers for Habitat

Don Arnosti
Policy Director
Audubon Minnesota

Darrell Gerber
Program Coordinator
Clean Water Action Midwest Office

Lance Ness
President
Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Whitney Clark
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Friends of the Mississippi River

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Barbara Halbakken Fischburg
**Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations
Collaborative**

Gary Botzek
Executive Director
Minnesota Conservation Federation

Jeff Forester, Executive Director
**Minnesota Seasonal Recreational
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John P. Lenczewski
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Katie Nyberg
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