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Chicago, Illinois**TESTIMONY****Tim Eder, Executive Director****Great Lakes Commission****ON****The Federal Response to the Discovery of the****Aquatic Invasive Species Asian Carp in Lake Calumet, Illinois****TO****Subcommittee on Water and Power****Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources****July 14, 2010****Introduction**

Madame Chair and members of the Water and Power Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the urgent situation surrounding the discovery of Asian carp in Lake Calumet—just six miles from Lake Michigan. My name is Tim Eder and I am executive director of the Great Lakes Commission. The Great Lakes Commission is a public agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955 to help its eight member Great Lakes states and associate member provinces of Ontario and Québec speak with a unified voice and collectively fulfill their vision for a healthy, vibrant Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region.

Asian Carp Threaten the Valuable Assets of the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes states and provinces have grave concerns about the dire threat Asian carp pose to the ecological and environmental integrity of the region we call home. In brief, our Great Lakes region faces a crisis, and we must act with urgency commensurate with the implications of this crisis. Stated directly, Asian carp have the potential to devastate the Great Lakes ecosystem and the jobs and economic vitality of the communities that depend on the Great Lakes.

Containing 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water, the Great Lakes are an extraordinary natural resource for our country and our neighbor to the north. The lakes provide valuable ecological and economic benefits to the more than 33 million Americans and Canadians who live in the basin, including transportation for raw materials and finished goods; fresh water for industries; drinking water for communities; recreation for citizens; and a vibrant ecosystem for diverse communities of plants and animals. Despite the current economic climate, the Great

Lakes regional economy remains the third largest in the world behind only that of the United States and Japan. The invasion of Asian carp has the potential to cause irreversible damage to these valuable commercial, recreational and ecological assets. Due to their rapid reproduction, growth patterns and ability to outcompete native fish, the Asian carp population established in the Mississippi River basin has experienced unparalleled population growth. In a three-year span, the commercial harvest of bighead carp in the Mississippi River Basin went from 5.5 to 55 tons — a ten-fold increase.¹ In some areas of the Mississippi and Illinois River, the Asian carp now make up more than 95% of the biomass.² Of particular concern is the looming threat Asian carp pose to the Great Lakes recreational boating industry and commercial, sport and tribal fisheries that generate a combined economic benefit of more than \$16 billion in the region.³

In addition to the recent discovery of Asian carp in Lake Calumet, they continue to approach the Great Lakes basin through other waterways. For example, Asian carp continue to migrate up the Wabash River, a tributary of the Ohio River, where they are actively spawning within 100 miles of the headwaters of the Wabash. The Wabash is separated from the Maumee River, which drains to Lake Erie, by a floodplain. There is legitimate and justified concern that flooding in this area could create a temporary connection between the Wabash and Maumee rivers and provide a pathway for Asian carp to enter Lake Erie at the very heart of the Great Lakes. It is worth noting that flooding in the Mississippi River in the early 1990s provided one of the pathways for Asian carp to escape from commercial fish ponds into the river and begin their migration northward toward the Great Lakes.

We have long known the potential for Asian carp and other non-native aquatic species to enter the Great Lakes from points around and beyond the Chicago area. The recent capture of a live carp in Lake Calumet should give new urgency to direct our actions to the points where the Great Lakes are artificially connected to other watersheds, beginning with the Chicago area.

It is imperative that our region act together in a coordinated and decisive manner if we are to protect the Great Lakes from invasion by Asian carp. Our region has a long history of working with the federal government on Asian carp control. Our experience with the construction of the electric dispersal barrier system on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Chicago goes back to the early part of the last decade. Unfortunately, these experiences do not fill us with confidence in the ability of the federal government to move quickly and decisively to confront current challenges.

However, we recognize that this is a new day. We hope that recent events will ignite and accelerate the coordinated and urgent response that the situation demands. Now, more than ever, we need leadership from the federal government, a response that is coordinated closely with state agencies, and an aggressive plan of attack that matches the urgency of this crisis.

The Federal Response Must Accelerate Both Short and Long-Term Actions

The recent discovery of Asian carp only six miles from Lake Michigan has severe implications for our region's economic and ecological health. Unless both short-term and long-term solutions are implemented quickly, it may

¹ Chick, J.H. and M.A. Pegg (2001) *Invasive carp in the Mississippi River basin*. Science 292 (5525):2250-2251.

² MICRA (2002) *Asian carp threat to the Great Lakes*, River Crossings: The Newsletter of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association 11 (3):1-2.

³ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2008), *In response to Public Law 106-53, Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Section 455(c), John Glenn Great Lakes Basin Program, Great Lakes Recreational Boating*, Submitted to Congress Dec. 15, 2008; Barnhart, G. (2005) *The Threat Posed to the Great Lakes Basin by Asian Carp*, accessible at: http://www.glfc.org/fishmgmt/testimony_AsianCarp.pdf.

only be a matter of time before Asian carp invade the Great Lakes. If a self-sustaining population becomes established, the carp will be difficult—and most likely impossible—to control or eradicate.

Our region has been calling for concerted action to prevent the introduction of Asian carp into the Great Lakes for nearly two decades. Most recently, in February of 2010 the Great Lakes Commission unanimously adopted a resolution that recognizes ecological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds as the best, permanent solution to preventing the movement of invasive species between the watersheds. It calls for a unified, immediate, and substantial commitment of resources to investigate and identify alternatives for existing uses of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC). It is worth emphasizing that this resolution was adopted with support from all eight of the Great Lakes states, Ontario and Québec.

The discovery of live Asian carp in and near tributaries of the Great Lakes heightens the urgency of finding and implementing long-term solutions that will permanently prevent further exchange of invasive species between the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi watershed. The long timeframe of the Corps of Engineers' study of ecologically separating the Great Lakes basin from the Mississippi watershed is unacceptable and does not inspire confidence that the federal government is reacting with the urgency that is required.

Moreover, recent discoveries heighten the urgency to accelerate critical short-term actions needed to ensure that Asian carp do not enter and establish reproducing populations in the Great Lakes. Federal agencies must coordinate closely with state agencies and must take all necessary actions described in the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework to monitor, detect and eradicate Asian carp in the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) and other points where the Great Lakes are artificially connected or where they could be temporarily connected with other watersheds.

Asian carp are both the most imminent and likely the most damaging threat to the Great Lakes. We must act immediately if we are to prevent this threat from becoming a reality.

The Need for Concerted Action: The Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework

In February 2010, the U.S. EPA-led Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee released the draft Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework providing a blueprint for action by federal and state agencies and other partners. The framework was updated in May. It provides an important summary of short-term strategies for combating the invasion of Asian carp; clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the federal, state, municipal and other agencies involved; and identifies funding sources to pay for immediate action.

Several of the Great Lakes Commission's member states provided comments on the Framework when it was published as a draft in February. In general, the states recognized the Framework as an articulation of various short-term and other measures that federal and state agencies will take to monitor and control the spread of Asian carp.

States have recognized positive actions called for in the Framework, but they also have identified significant concerns about the Framework. These points do not reflect a consensus of all eight states. But, to summarize the comments from some of the states, below are some of the positive aspects of the Framework:

- Completion of dispersal barrier IIB on the CSSC by October 2010;
- Construction of interim barriers between the Des Plaines River and the CSSC to prevent the transfer of Asian carp during flood events;
- Research on Asian carp spawning, habitat, and feeding habits and associated risks of becoming established in the Great Lakes; and
- Increased outreach to and participation by other stakeholders and agencies.

Similarly, and again, not reflecting the views of all states, some of the concerns identified by the states include:

- Failure to call for closure of locks and other structures on the CAWS, or to change their operations or modify their structures, while a permanent solution is developed and implemented;
- Lack of adequate short-term control measures in the CAWS;
- Lengthy timeframes for implementing control strategies, conducting studies, and advancing ecological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds;
- Failure to study alternate modes for transferring cargo besides that provided by the CAWS;
- Inadequate measures to prevent the transfer of Asian carp eggs and larvae via ballast water in commercial vessels; and
- Insufficient communication with and formal participation from the Great Lakes states in the Asian Carps Regional Coordinating Committee.

In May, the attorneys general of five of the eight Great Lakes states conveyed a detailed critique of progress under the Framework. In correspondence to the commander of the Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, the attorneys general noted that:

In sum, apart from the already planned improvements . . . relatively little concrete action has been taken under the Framework since February to prevent the migration of Asian carp into Lake Michigan. Even the limited "modified structural operations" proposed by the Corps as an alternative to lock and sluice gate closure, have yet to be implemented as initially described in the Framework. And, significantly, the critical first step toward a permanent solution – a feasibility study evaluating permanent ecological separation of the CAWS from the Great Lakes – remains, under the May Framework[], years away from completion.

Their next statement aptly reflects the collective sentiment of the Great Lakes states: "Further delay is unacceptable."

The measures called for in the Framework clearly are necessary in the near term and must be implemented. However, the fundamental criticism of the Framework is that it does not provide a clear track on an acceptable timetable to the most permanent, sustainable and effective solution to keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

Thus, reiterating the key message from the Commission's February 2010 resolution, we must commit to ecological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds as the only permanent and most effective long-term solution to keeping Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes through the CAWS. More than anything else, this was the predominant theme consistently conveyed by the states in reaction to the Framework.

Recommendations for Immediate Action

The crisis we face requires a re-examination and acceleration of our collective efforts. As Senator Durbin remarked in a recent statement, "We have to go at this as if we were at war. The viability of the Great Lakes is at stake."

Notwithstanding our comments above and the concerns our states have expressed, the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework forms a foundation for improving and accelerating regional action in response to the recent discoveries. The Great Lakes states offer the following recommendations to strengthen this foundation and ensure the timely and comprehensive protection of our valuable resources:

➤ **Establish a more organized and coordinated federal response to Asian carp**

A fundamental need at this moment is to improve how federal agencies are organizing and coordinating their response efforts to reflect a greater sense of urgency and accountability. There must be a single and clear point of contact overseeing the collective federal effort, empowered to ensure action and provide the requisite accountability. Federal agencies must be given the authority and the ability to marshal all of the resources necessary to expeditiously thwart the further advance of Asian carp toward the Great Lakes.

At the same time, it is also critical that the federal response be managed in a way that respects the authorities of states to manage natural resources within their borders. This is not simply an acknowledgement of state sovereignty, but also recognition that the states are indispensable allies in the battle against Asian carp. States have intimate knowledge of the waterways within their borders and staff and equipment “on the ground” throughout the region poised to support monitoring, control and eradication efforts. This was aptly demonstrated during last year’s large-scale chemical treatment of the CSSC, when the Great Lakes states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec pulled together to contribute staff, equipment and funding to support the interagency operation.

➤ **Improve communication and coordination with states and other partners**

The Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) has spearheaded monitoring and control efforts in the CAWS to date but it is not clear to the states how this committee and its workgroups are structured, how membership is determined, what the scope of work is and how communications are planned and executed. Unfortunately, this has resulted in confusion and a lack of effective integration of our collective efforts. One option would be to expand the RCC to include an opportunity for participation from each of the Great Lakes states. Until recently, the only state represented on the RCC was Illinois. We understand that Indiana and Ohio have recently been added. Clearly, Asian carp are a threat to the entire Great Lakes region and a more effective mechanism is needed to coordinate our intergovernmental partnership.

➤ **Assess risks throughout the watershed divide**

A risk assessment exercise should be undertaken immediately to identify the places that pose the greatest risk of facilitating the movement of Asian carp from the Mississippi River watershed to the Great Lakes basin. While this is (at least in part) the intended focus of the Corps of Engineers’ Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin (GLMRIS) study—currently projected for completion in 2014—recent evidence indicates that a quicker and more comprehensive approach is required. Risk assessments must be conducted on all tributaries of the Mississippi River and artificial connections between the Mississippi watershed and Great Lakes basin which Asian carp can potentially use to breach the divide between the two ecosystems. Once the highest risk locations are identified, resource agencies should follow up using eDNA and traditional monitoring to track movement of carp and ensure early detection. Rapid response plans must be put in place to thwart any possible migration. We are pleased that such a monitoring effort is called for in the legislation recently introduced by Senators Stabenow and Durbin. In addition, as called for in the Stabenow-Durbin bill, we urge close consultation with the Great Lakes states both to respect their jurisdictional authorities and to utilize their knowledge of the watersheds and associated hydrology.

➤ **Continue to focus on the CAWS as the highest priority**

While it is important to evaluate the risk of Asian carp moving to the Great Lakes at all points along the watershed divide, the RCC should continue to focus the brunt of its efforts on the CAWS. The finding of the bighead carp in Lake Calumet and the numerous positive eDNA samples indicate the presence of Asian carp in

several locations upstream of the electric barrier. It is essential that response activities continue to be focused in the Chicago region.

➤ **Immediately accelerate eDNA testing**

The discovery of Asian carp in Lake Calumet and other areas such as the Wabash River should trigger an aggressive effort to document and verify the extent of Asian carp populations in these areas. The Commission is troubled to learn that there has been a gap in eDNA testing during this critical time. This is an example of how an aggressive, coordinated federal response has been lacking. The federal government should immediately reinstate the use of eDNA testing to better understand the populations in the CAWS and at other potential points of hydrologic connection.

Recommendations for a permanent, long-term solution

There is a clear consensus among the Great Lakes states that the best long-term solution to prevent the exchange of invasive species—including, but not limited to, Asian carp—between the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi River watershed is to permanently sever the artificial connection between the two watersheds. Although the states have disagreed in the past on whether the threat from Asian carp is sufficient to close the O'Brien and Chicago locks, there is now no disagreement that permanent ecological separation is the best long-term solution.

At the Great Lakes Commission's semiannual meeting last February in Washington, D.C., our Commissioners unanimously approved the attached resolution. Our Commissioners—representing all eight of the Great Lakes states, Ontario and Québec—agreed unanimously that “the best permanent solution for the health of both the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds is ecological separation, with the goal being preventing the movement of invasive species between the watersheds, and that the pursuit of this goal must start with a unified, immediate, and substantial commitment of resources to investigate and identify alternatives for existing uses of the CSSC, including for stormwater and wastewater control and commercial and recreational navigation.”

The resolution further “calls on Congress and the Obama Administration to immediately provide substantial resources to expedite the investigation and implementation of permanent solutions to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins and that the first phase of these studies, those related specifically to the CSSC, be completed no later than Sept. 30, 2011, and be followed by an aggressive timetable for implementation.”

Although chemical, biological, and interim physical methods are essential to repelling the immediate invasion of Asian carp into the Great Lakes and adjacent waterways, these solutions are neither economically nor environmentally sustainable. The goal of permanent ecological separation would be to entirely prevent the interbasin transfer of aquatic invasive species between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds via the CAWS.

Ecological separation is a relatively simple concept: it means taking steps to prevent the interbasin transfer of aquatic organisms through the waterways. It means preventing the movement of all aquatic organisms—at all life stages—via canals and waterways between the watersheds. As a practical matter, ecological separation means physical separation of the watersheds at one or more places in the CAWS. For our purposes, ecological separation is synonymous with hydrologic separation.

The CAWS encompasses a complex system of rivers, canals and navigation structures centered in the Chicago metropolitan area but stretching into Indiana and west toward the Mississippi River. Begun in the 19th century to

facilitate the movement of commercial goods between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, the waterway system has evolved over more than a century to support an array of important uses, including commercial transportation, recreational boating, wastewater management, flood control and emergency response. Achieving ecological separation likely will require modifying existing water infrastructure or building physical barriers to stop the flow of water while maintaining the system's benefits. Ideally, if done correctly, ecological separation will not only solve a serious threat to the health of the Great Lakes, but also improve the overall transportation and water management system of the greater Chicago area.

Unfortunately, progress by the federal government toward this goal has been unacceptably slow. In the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Congress authorized the Corps of Engineers to conduct a feasibility study of "the range of options and technologies available to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other aquatic pathways." Under this study (GLMRIS) the Corps intends to consider separation as but one option. To date, there has been virtually no visible progress toward completing the study. The Corps of Engineers has yet to even complete a project management plan, one of the first steps in beginning the study. No public meetings have been held or scheduled, and no notices or updates on progress under the study have been released. The Corps of Engineers is currently projecting that the first phase of the study will not be completed until late 2012, with the full study projected to be completed in 2014. This timetable is unacceptably long.

➤ **Clarify the direction, accelerate the timetable and provide funding for the Corps of Engineers study of hydrologic separation**

It is essential that Congress and the Administration provide the Corps of Engineers with a clear directive and the funding necessary to accelerate the timetable for completing the GLMRIS study. The resolution adopted by the Great Lakes Commission calls for completion of the first phase of the study—the portion focused on the CAWS—by September 2011. Thus, we support the legislation introduced recently by Senators Stabenow and Durbin, which gives the Corps a necessary and clear directive to conduct a study that focuses on hydrologic separation of the Great Lakes basin and the Mississippi watersheds. The legislation calls for completion of the study within 18 months of enactment. The legislation also properly directs the Corps to carefully assess options to accommodate the uses currently provided by the CAWS, including flood prevention, wastewater, waterway safety operations, and barge and recreational traffic alternatives.

In addition to providing the Corps with clear marching orders and an aggressive timetable, Congress must provide the appropriations necessary to complete the study in a timely fashion. We are concerned that the Administration's budget calls for only \$400,000 for the GLMRIS study for next fiscal year. To be done correctly, a study of this magnitude and complexity clearly requires significantly more funding.

In conjunction with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the Great Lakes Commission intends, pending successful completion of raising the needed funds, to initiate an independent study to research options for ecological separation. The study is intended to complement, support and help accelerate the work of the Corps, not duplicate it. The study team would operate in close coordination with the Corps' feasibility study, either the GLMRIS study and its interim report(s) or a new study that would be initiated by the Stabenow-Durbin legislation. An independent study team can provide a more concerted and detailed focus on how to achieve ecological separation than likely will be produced by the Corps, and in a much quicker timeframe. Based on experience to date, it will also afford states, cities, tribes, and other affected stakeholders a greater opportunity to provide input, define key questions and establish criteria for developing and evaluating the scenarios for ecological separation.

➤ **Ensure federal agencies budget for ongoing monitoring and control of Asian carp**

Safeguarding the Great Lakes against Asian carp will be an ongoing need for many years to come. As discussed, achieving ecological separation of the Great Lakes basin and Mississippi River watersheds will be complex and will take years to implement. In the meantime, it is imperative that we maintain the highest level of vigilance in keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. It bears repeating that, once established, Asian carp most likely will be impossible to control or eradicate and the economic and ecological impacts could be devastating. While they may take years to migrate among the Great Lakes, migrate they likely will, just as zebra mussels, round gobies, spiny water fleas and a host of other damaging aquatic invasive species have migrated across the Great Lakes. Thus, it is imperative that federal agencies include the costs of Asian carp monitoring and control in their base budgets. This is not a special or one-time expense, but, rather, an ongoing part of their management responsibilities for the Great Lakes. We must not allow the President's unprecedented commitment to restoring the lakes under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to become the only source of funding for these baseline management responsibilities.

Summary of Key Required Actions

In summary, the Great Lakes Commission urges Congress and the Administration to implement the following actions that are urgently needed to prevent Asian carp from invading and permanently devastating the ecological and environmental health of the Great Lakes:

- Strengthen the Asian carp response structure with improved transparency and communication, increased participation from the Great Lakes states, a single point of contact with authority to marshal all necessary federal resources and clear accountability for action;
- Maintain close cooperation with state agencies, utilize their expertise and respect their legal authorities and jurisdictional rights; and
- Maintain and accelerate the use of eDNA testing in the CAWS and other areas where Asian carp may be present;
- Initiate a regional risk assessment to identify places that pose the greatest risk of facilitating the movement of Asian carp from the Mississippi River watershed to the Great Lakes basin;
- Ensure that federal agencies budget for Asian carp control efforts in their base programs to ensure that these ongoing costs do not undermine progress being made under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative;
- Commit to and move aggressively toward developing and implementing ecological separation of the Great Lakes basin and Mississippi River watershed as the best permanent long-term solution to preventing the exchange of aquatic invasive species between the two;
- Accelerate the Corps of Engineers GLMRIS study to provide an interim report on the CAWS within 18 months and provide the Corps with all necessary funding and authority to carry out this and related studies as expeditiously as possible and to implement any needed emergency response actions.

Conclusion

The Great Lakes are a national treasure and a vital economic asset for our region and our country. Last year President Obama began the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), an unprecedented, multi-year commitment to implement a comprehensive restoration plan for the Great Lakes that was guided by our region's governors and broadly endorsed by states, cities, tribes, business and industry, environmental and conservation groups, and other stakeholders. The GLRI is a wise investment that advances our broader strategy to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources that are a critical component of our regional economic infrastructure.

However, just as we are poised to make historic gains in restoring the Great Lakes, we are faced with the prospect of watching them suffer great ecological damage. Even worse, we have seen this threat coming. For more than a decade, federal and state agencies have been taking action to prevent Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes. The past year has made it painfully clear that our efforts to date have been inadequate.

We haven't lost the battle against Asian carp, but without accelerated action, we could be close. We face a crisis and must respond correspondingly. It is imperative that we take the near-term actions needed to push back against the forward movement of Asian carp while committing to a long-term vision that permanently protects our economic and ecological health. There are challenges to surmount and difficult problems to address. But, just as more than a century ago the City of Chicago reversed the flow of the Chicago River, we can tackle the problems associated with separating the Great Lakes basin and Mississippi River watersheds. A problem that we cannot solve, however, is a Great Lakes infested with Asian carp. We must not be the generation that allowed what may be the most damaging invasive species into the Great Lakes on our watch.

I thank you for your time and welcome any questions you may have.

Adopted Feb. 23, 2010

Resolution: Actions to Address the Threat to the Great Lakes from Asian Carp

Whereas, the potential invasion of Asian carp poses an imminent threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem and economy and the history of invasive species in the Great Lakes shows that non-native species can devastate local ecosystems, out-compete local species, and cause widespread economic impacts; and

Whereas, a physical specimen of Asian carp was retrieved 500 feet north of the Lockport Lock and Dam in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reported positive carp eDNA in water samples taken in the Calumet Harbor of Lake Michigan; and

Whereas, if populations of Asian carp become established in the Great Lakes they will be difficult if not impossible to control or eradicate; and

Whereas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will lose some of its authority to execute control strategies and actions after Sept. 30, 2010, and the Obama Administration has proposed only \$400,000 in the Corps' budget for Fiscal Year 2011 for the study of interbasin transfer of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes, Mississippi River and other watersheds; and

Whereas, substantial disagreement exists among the Great Lakes Commission's members as to the need for, the effectiveness of, and the costs/benefits of certain short-term actions that have been proposed by some of its members to prevent further migration of Asian carp toward Lake Michigan; and

Whereas, there is consensus among the Commission's members that certain actions will inhibit the further movement north and potential establishment in the Great Lakes of Asian carp and will assist in safeguarding the ecological and economic integrity of the Great Lakes.

Therefore Be It Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to accelerate the timetable for full operation of the dispersal barrier system and to establish structural measures to prevent the inadvertent introduction of Asian carp from floodwaters of the Des Plaines River into the CSSC; and

Be It Further Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission urges Congress to reinforce the authority for and provide funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies to take action beyond Sept. 30, 2010, to implement any measures necessary to prevent further migration of any Asian carp and to continue aggressive monitoring and response efforts in Chicago-area waterways; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission recognizes that the best permanent solution for the health of both the Mississippi River and Great Lakes watersheds is ecological separation, with the goal being preventing the movement of invasive species between the watersheds, and that the pursuit of this goal must start with a unified, immediate, and substantial commitment of resources to investigate and identify alternatives for existing uses of the CSSC, including for stormwater and wastewater control and commercial and recreational navigation; and



Be It Further Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission calls on Congress and the Obama Administration to immediately provide substantial resources to expedite the investigation and implementation of permanent solutions to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins and that the first phase of these studies, those related specifically to the CSSC, be completed no later than Sept. 30, 2011, and be followed by an aggressive timetable for implementation; and

Be It Finally Resolved, the Great Lakes Commission offers its services to support the implementation of short-term and permanent solutions to combat the potential invasion of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

Adopted at the 2010 Semiannual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, Washington, D.C., Feb. 23, 2010.