



November 10, 2009

The Honorable Pat Quinn  
Governor  
The State of Illinois  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

The International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada is gravely concerned that actions currently underway to keep Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes may not be sufficient or may not be implemented quickly enough to be successful.

The Great Lakes are a binational treasure, and we must not allow this resource to be irreparably damaged by Asian carp. The Commission previously has brought this matter to the attention of the governments of the United States and Canada under its alerting capacity pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and its responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Recently, we learned that the electric fish dispersal barrier system in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, while operational to some extent, is still months away from completion and that there is a very real danger the barrier could be breached or bypassed by the Asian carp. Most recently, evidence of the carp has been found less than a mile from the barrier. Despite having spent over \$18 million dollars and 16 years of effort to keep the carp out of the Great Lakes, we now risk defeat by a single power outage or heavy rain storm.

Numerous local, state and federal agencies have worked collaboratively through the Barrier Advisory Panel to assess the problems and recommend solutions. We strongly support the panel's recommendation to construct a physical separation between the Des Plaines River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, initially as a temporary emergency barrier followed by completion of a more permanent physical separation between the two waterways sufficient to contain at least a 100-yr flood event.



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Canada and United States  
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Washington, DC 20440  
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commission@washington.ijc.org

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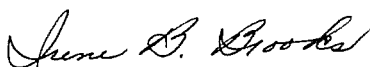
We also support further action to close off the Illinois and Michigan Canal and Deep Run Creek in a manner that would permit storm water discharge while precluding the upstream passage (and barrier bypass) of Asian carp. Further, a rapid response effort must be undertaken as soon as possible to push back the Asian carp and allow the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct scheduled maintenance on Barrier IIA and complete construction of Barrier IIB.

These near term actions, along with longer term measures recommended by the panel to improve monitoring and reduce the pressure on the barrier system must be taken immediately to protect the health and security of the Great Lakes.

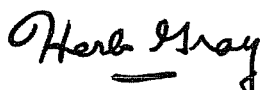
State, local and federal agencies all agree that urgent preventative action is needed to stop the destructive carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Accordingly, we urge you to take immediate action to cut through any and all administrative and bureaucratic obstacles that exist in Illinois agencies, so that your agencies the other federal agencies involved can execute the plans without delay. Response personnel must be given every opportunity possible to eliminate the risk of this invasion by Asian carp and avoid almost certain disastrous economic and environmental consequences to the Great Lakes, a unique resource shared between the United States and Canada. This is a battle that we cannot afford to lose.

We look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

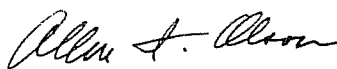
Sincerely,



Irene B. Brooks  
Chair, U.S. Section



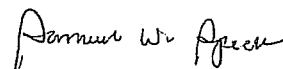
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Chair, Canadian Section



Allen I. Olson  
Commissioner



Pierre Trépanier  
Commissioner



Samuel W. Speck, Jr.  
Commissioner



Lyle Knott  
Commissioner

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Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, Commanding General, US Army COE

The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, EPA

Mr. Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, EPA

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality, White House

Cc: Mr. Edwin Nolan, U.S. Department of State

Mr. Stéphane Jobin, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade



November 10, 2009

Ms. Nancy Sutley  
Chair  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Executive Office of the President  
722 Jackson Pl. NW  
Washington, DC 20506-0003

Dear Ms. Sutley:

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The Great Lakes are a binational treasure, and we must not allow this resource to be irreparably damaged by Asian carp. The Commission previously has brought this matter to the attention of the governments of the United States and Canada under its alerting capacity pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and its responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

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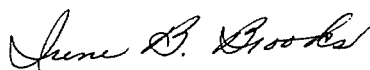
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These near term actions, along with longer term measures recommended by the panel to improve monitoring and reduce the pressure on the barrier system must be taken immediately to protect the health and security of the Great Lakes.

State, local and federal agencies all agree that urgent preventative action is needed to stop the destructive carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Accordingly, we urge you to take immediate action to cut through any and all administrative and bureaucratic obstacles that exist in the U.S. Government, so that all the agencies involved can execute the plans without delay. Response personnel must be given every opportunity possible to eliminate the risk of this invasion by Asian carp and avoid almost certain disastrous economic and environmental consequences to the Great Lakes, a unique resource shared between the United States and Canada. This is a battle that we cannot afford to lose.

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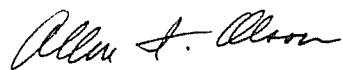
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Chair, U.S. Section



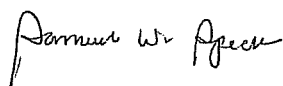
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The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois

Cc: Mr. Edwin Nolan, U.S. Department of State  
Mr. Stéphane Jobin, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade



November 10, 2009

Mr. Cameron Davis  
Senior Advisor to the Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Great Lakes National Program Office  
77 W. Jackson Boulevard (G-17J)  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3511

Dear Mr. Davis:

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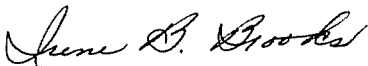
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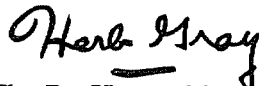
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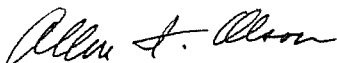
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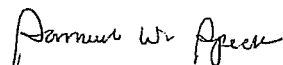
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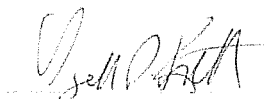
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Cc: Mr. Edwin Nolan, U.S. Department of State  
Mr. Stéphane Jobin, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Dr. Gary Gulezian, Director, National Great Lakes Office, EPA



November 10, 2009

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
Mail Code 1101A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

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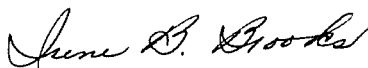
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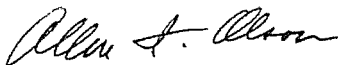
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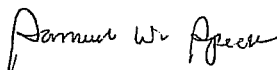
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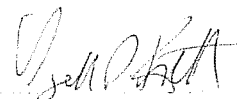
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Cc: Mr. Edwin Nolan, U.S. Department of State  
Mr. Stéphane Jobin, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Dr. Gary Gulezian, Director, National Great Lakes Office, EPA



November 10, 2009

Lt. General Robert L. Van Antwerp  
Commanding General  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Van Antwerp:

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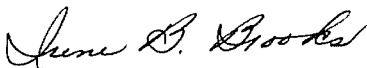
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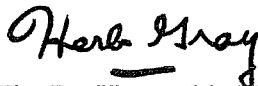
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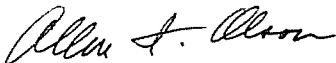
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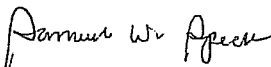
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November 10, 2009

Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary for Civil Works  
United States Army  
108 Army Pentagon  
Room 3E446  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

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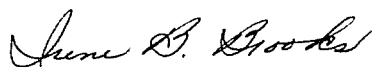
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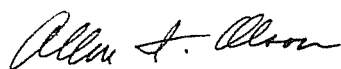
Sincerely,



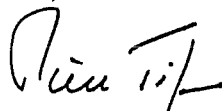
Irene B. Brooks  
Chair, U.S. Section



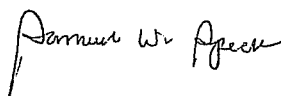
The Rt. Honorable Herb Gray, P.C., C.C., Q.C.  
Chair, Canadian Section



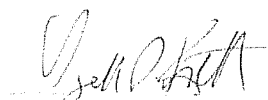
Allen I. Olson  
Commissioner



Pierre Trépanier  
Commissioner



Samuel W. Speck, Jr.  
Commissioner



Lyle Knott  
Commissioner

Similar letters also sent to:

The Honorable John McHugh, Secretary, U.S. Army  
Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, Commanding General, U.S. Army COE  
The Honorable Lisa Jackson, Administrator, EPA  
Mr. Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, EPA  
Ms. Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality, White House  
The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois

Cc: Mr. Edwin Nolan, U.S. Department of State  
Mr. Stéphane Jobin, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade



November 10, 2009

The Honorable John McHugh  
Secretary  
United States Army  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary McHugh:

The International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada is gravely concerned that actions currently underway to keep Asian carp from getting into the Great Lakes may not be sufficient or may not be implemented quickly enough to be successful.

The Great Lakes are a binational treasure, and we must not allow this resource to be irreparably damaged by Asian carp. The Commission previously has brought this matter to the attention of the governments of the United States and Canada under its alerting capacity pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and its responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

Recently, we learned that the electric fish dispersal barrier system in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, while operational to some extent, is still months away from completion and that there is a very real danger the barrier could be breached or bypassed by the Asian carp. Most recently, evidence of the carp has been found less than a mile from the barrier. Despite having spent over \$18 million dollars and 16 years of effort to keep the carp out of the Great Lakes, we now risk defeat by a single power outage or heavy rain storm.

Numerous local, state and federal agencies have worked collaboratively through the Barrier Advisory Panel to assess the problems and recommend solutions. We strongly support the panel's recommendation to construct a physical separation between the Des Plaines River and the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, initially as a temporary emergency barrier followed by completion of a more permanent physical separation between the two waterways sufficient to contain at least a 100-yr flood event.



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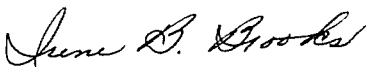
We also support further action to close off the Illinois and Michigan Canal and Deep Run Creek in a manner that would permit storm water discharge while precluding the upstream passage (and barrier bypass) of Asian carp. Further, a rapid response effort must be undertaken as soon as possible to push back the Asian carp and allow the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct scheduled maintenance on Barrier IIA and complete construction of Barrier IIB.

These near term actions, along with longer term measures recommended by the panel to improve monitoring and reduce the pressure on the barrier system must be taken immediately to protect the health and security of the Great Lakes.

State, local and federal agencies all agree that urgent preventative action is needed to stop the destructive carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Accordingly, we urge you to take immediate action to cut through any and all administrative and bureaucratic obstacles that exist in the Army Corps of Engineers, so that the Corps and the other agencies involved can execute the plans without delay. Response personnel must be given every opportunity possible to eliminate the risk of this invasion by Asian carp and avoid almost certain disastrous economic and environmental consequences to the Great Lakes, a unique resource shared between the United States and Canada. This is a battle that we cannot afford to lose.

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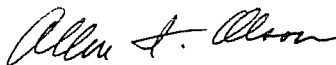
Sincerely,



Irene B. Brooks  
Chair, U.S. Section



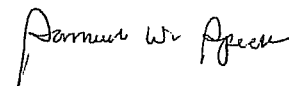
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