

October 31, 2008

RECEIVED BY DHS EXEC SEC

Secretary Robert M. Gates  
U.S. Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

2008 NOV 13 PM 3:19

Secretary Michael Chertoff  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Gates and Secretary Chertoff:

As you know, the Great Lakes are at risk from the grave threat posed by Asian carp and other harmful aquatic invasive species. Without the completion and operation of an effective barrier system in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the Asian carp may soon enter the Lakes through the Illinois and Chicago River systems. These carp potentially threaten public safety and the ecological integrity of the world's largest freshwater system.

The Great Lakes Governors, Mayors, Members of Congress and many others have worked tirelessly to secure Federal support for the barrier, and each of the Great Lakes States have made financial contributions to support the barrier when construction was delayed due to Federal funding shortfalls. Nearly one year has passed since Congress enacted the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, which provided the necessary authorization and appropriations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for completion of the barrier. Yet despite these enormous efforts, the Great Lakes still remain vulnerable as the U.S. Coast Guard performs additional tests and delays continue to prevent the full operation of the new barrier system. While we recognize there are safety concerns related to the barrier, these concerns must be more quickly assessed and resolved.

We therefore ask you to provide us with a detailed work plan and timeline to complete barrier construction and testing, and then to begin operation at full capacity as soon as possible. More than 35 million Americans depend on the Great Lakes, and our region's commercial and sport fishing industries contribute significantly to our regional economy. Our region, and our nation, cannot afford continued delay.

Sincerely,

Jim Doyle  
Governor of Wisconsin  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors

CC: Administrator Stephen L. Johnson, Chair, Great Lakes Interagency Task Force;  
Great Lakes Congressional Task Force

JIM DOYLE  
CHAIR  
*Governor of Wisconsin*

ROD BLAGOJEVICH  
*Governor of Illinois*

MITCH DANIELS  
*Governor of Indiana*

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
*Governor of Michigan*

DAVID A. PATERSON  
*Governor of New York*

TIM PAWLENTY  
*Governor of Minnesota*

ED RENDELL  
*Governor of Pennsylvania*

TED STRICKLAND  
*Governor of Ohio*

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

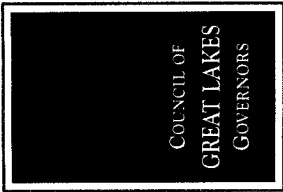
35 East Wacker Drive  
Suite 1850  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Voice: 312-407-0177  
Fax: 312-407-0038  
Web: [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org)  
e-mail: [cglg@cglg.org](mailto:cglg@cglg.org)



ALBERT WEISSTADT

CHICAGO, IL 60603  
31 OCT 2008 PM 11



COUNCIL OF  
GREAT LAKES  
GOVERNORS

35 East Wacker Drive  
Suite 1850  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Secretary Michael Chertoff  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

RECEIVED NOV 19 2008

20528+0000

NOV 07 2008

✓ #160

NOV 07 2008

✓ #160

