

February 16, 2012

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

Dear Governor Dayton,

We appreciate the interest and leadership you have shown with regards to stopping the spread of Asian Carp, and working in a non-partisan manner to develop an Asian Carp Action Plan for the state of Minnesota. We recognize the need for our entire Congressional delegation to unite in this fight to mobilize federal agencies and resources to support our efforts within our state.

We have assembled a “90 Day Action List”, below, for our Congressional delegation to work together to achieve, which will provide the crucial federal support we need to be successful in the near term. Our goal is to identify actions that are non-controversial, feasible, and will serve to slow the spread of these invasive fish, while putting funds towards scientific research necessary to control them over the long-term.

Please send a letter to each member of the Minnesota Congressional delegation, asking them to work together to achieve these objectives within the next 90 days. It is our intention to ask the Minnesota House and Senate to pass a resolution complementing your letter.

- 1) Direct the US Army Corps of Engineers to immediately implement a plan to reduce unnecessary recreational and commercial lockages to reduce invasive fish passage at four locks: Upper Saint Anthony, and Locks #1, #2, and #19. This plan should be in effect prior to the start of navigation in 2012. (Estimated Zero Cost; possible Operational Savings.)
- 2) Direct the US Army Corps of Engineers to expedite permits and other review documents required to construct effective fish deterrent systems in and around Upper Saint Anthony, and Locks #1, #2 and #19 during 2012. (Estimated Zero Cost – the Corps is already funded to make such efforts.)
- 3) Appropriate federal money to fund installation of deterrents in Lock #19, and to match Minnesota funds in placing deterrents in and around the other three locks. (Estimated \$8-12 million for Lock #19, plus \$8-12 million matching funds for Minnesota’s three locks, the upper two of which are smaller than Locks #2 and #19.)
- 4) Appropriate \$10 million to fund research efforts coordinated between federal, educational and private research facilities to stop and control Asian Carp over the long term.
- 5) Appropriate federal funding to implement the National Asian Carp Plan and provide authority for the National Asian Carp Director to coordinate all federal efforts to control Asian Carp.

- 6) Authorize and fund a study of the efficacy of lock closures (Upper Saint Anthony and/or Lock #1) as a temporary or permanent measure to stop the advance of Asian Carp up the Mississippi River. (Minnesota already has a start on this study.)

Thank you for your immediate attention to direct effective action on this issue of great importance to our state.

Sincerely,

Don Arnosti
Audubon Minnesota

Vern Wagner
Anglers for Habitat

Darrell Gerber
Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota

Whitney Clark
Friends of the Mississippi River

Scott Strand
Minnesota Center for
Environmental Advocacy

Keith Blomstrom
Minnesota Conservation Federation

John P. Lenczewski
Minnesota Trout Unlimited

Christine R. Goepfert
National Parks Conservation Association

Richard Carlson
New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen

John Peck
Central Minnesota Audubon Society

Barry Chouinard
FM Walleyes Unlimited, Inc.

Larry Dolphin
Izaak Walton League of America
Minnesota Division

Barb Halbakken Fischburg
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

Jeff Forester
Minnesota Seasonal Recreational
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Katie Nyberg
Mississippi River Fund

Marc Smith
National Wildlife Federation