

September 25, 2013

Honorable Greg Hooper
1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Dear Mayor Greg Hooper,

I am writing you because people in your community are concerned about Asian carp invading our Great Lakes and, with them, we are asking for your help. Would you consider joining the more than 30 communities around the Great Lakes region who have passed a resolution supporting the finding of a permanent solution to stop the Asian carp? A copy of that resolution, developed in partnership with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, is enclosed and a map of communities who have passed the resolution can be found on our website at freshwaterfuture.org.

Asian carp, an invasive species, are swimming toward our Great Lakes. Asian carp, including bighead and silver carp, are well suited for our climate. They consume vast amounts of food, reproduce quickly and are wiping out native fish where they thrive. In Illinois, the Asian carp population has doubled every year since they swam into the Illinois River. Silver carp can jump 10 feet high, resulting in numerous injuries to boaters and other recreational users. If these invasive fish become established, our \$7 billion regional fishing industry would be at risk along with our family past times and recreational enjoyment of our favorite lakes and rivers because:

- Invasive species are one of the greatest sources of ecological and economic damage to the Great Lakes;
- Three varieties of Asian carp, including silver, black, and bighead carp, have moved up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to a point 40 miles from Lake Michigan; and
- Asian carp are voracious eaters and reproduce so rapidly they take over many waterways, driving out other kinds of fish, including prized sport fish.

Local units of government can play an important role in stopping this threat. Tens of thousands of people have contacted their Members of Congress, letting them know they want the strongest actions possible to stop Asian carp. Thus far pressure from the Great Lakes region has had a meaningful impact that resulted in a policy moving us in the right direction, but the job itself is far from done. Support for these efforts from local units of government can help move solutions forward. We need to keep this momentum going and demonstrate to Congress growing support for stopping the Asian carp.

This summer Freshwater Future reached out to people in communities around the region and we heard back from members of your community – see the enclosed post cards. Your community can help by passing the “Keep Asian Carp Out of the Great Lakes” resolution in support of stopping Asian carp and protecting your community, its inland rivers, lakes and streams and the Great Lakes from this invasive

species. Your community can be part of the growing chorus of support around the region letting decision makers know we want the Asian carp stopped and we want fast action.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Cheryl@freshwaterfuture.org or 231-571-5001. If you are able to pass this resolution in your community, please let me know as I would welcome the opportunity to add your community to the list of communities around the region supporting efforts to stop the Asian carp from invading our Great Lakes.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Kallio, Associate Director
Freshwater Future