



August 3, 2018

The Honorable R.D. James
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary James:

On behalf of the recreational boating and angling community, as well as sportsmen and outdoor recreation groups and other interested stakeholders, we respectfully ask for your expedited consideration of the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) at Brandon Road Lock and Dam.

Recreational boating and angling is embedded within the Great Lakes history and economy. In 2015, the Great Lakes region accounted for 26.5% of all registered boats throughout the country, accounting for more than 3.1 million registered recreational boats. In the Great Lakes region, the recreational boating industry contributes \$36.4 billion to the economy, provides nearly 195,000 jobs and supports more than 7,150 businesses. The fishing industry in the Great Lakes is also a robust economic driver with 1.95 million anglers, adding \$5.6 billion annually to the Great Lakes regional economy and nearly 45,000 jobs.

As you know, Asian carp were discovered last year just nine miles from Lake Michigan. If they were to infiltrate into the Great Lakes, it could be devastating for the region's citizens and economy.

Our organizations believe that the TSP at Brandon Road Lock and Dam is the most feasible current option for protecting the Great Lakes region from Asian carp. However, we are concerned with the current USACE timeline outlined in the TSP, specifically the February 2019 Senior Leadership Panel and inclusion in the August 2019 Chief's Report. This timeline would delay Congressional approval and authorization until 2020 and 2021 respectively. Our organizations respectfully urge you to conduct the Senior Leader's Panel this coming fall, so that the TSP process can continue quickly.

Additionally, our respective organizations would like to request a group meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the TSP and other Asian carp mitigation and prevention efforts. We stand ready to assist USACE in any way we can to combat this destructive invasive species. Your staff can contact NMMA's Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Nicole Vasilaros, nvasilaros@nmma.org to arrange meeting.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association
Association of Marina Industries
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)
BoatU.S.
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Great Lakes Fishery Commission
Lake Erie Marine Trades Association
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Michigan Boating Industries Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Trout Unlimited