

April 29, 2013

David Ulrich
Executive Director
Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 2700
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. D. Ulrich:

Re: Keeping Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

Please be advised that the following resolution was adopted by Committee of the Whole at its meeting held on April 8, 2013, and subsequently ratified by City Council on April 15, 2013.

“WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represent the largest body of surface fresh water in the world and are a vibrant, diverse ecosystem that is critically important to the economic well-being and quality of life of the Canadian and U.S. populations in the basin;

AND WHEREAS, over 180 invasive species have entered the ecosystem over the years and caused widespread damage and disruption to the natural balance of the system, as well as significant economic damage;

AND WHEREAS, one of the most serious threats ever presented by invasive species currently comes from Asian carp, including silver, bighead, and black varieties;

AND WHEREAS, these varieties of carp were introduced to the southern United States for use in fish farms for algae control in the 1970's and escaped into the Mississippi River system as a result of floods and other means over the years;

AND WHEREAS, the invasive carp have migrated northward through the Mississippi River system over the years to a point where they are as far north as Wisconsin and Minnesota, and into Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, as well;



AND WHEREAS, the invasive carp have established dominant populations in many places in the river systems, reducing significantly or eliminating populations of the more desirable species of fish because of their voracious food consumption and prolific reproduction;

AND WHEREAS, the invasive carp are threatening to enter the Great Lakes at a number of points across the basin, but none appear to present as great a threat as the Illinois River and Chicago Area Waterway System;

AND WHEREAS, many federal, state, provincial, and local government agencies in the United States and Canada have worked diligently and expended tens of millions of dollars over the past 10 years on a variety of projects to stop the migration of the invasive carp and keep them out of the Great Lakes;

AND WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed and currently operates an electric barrier near Romeoville Illinois on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that seems to have helped slow or stop the movement of the invasive carp toward Lake Michigan;

AND WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a multiyear, comprehensive study across the U.S. side of the Great Lakes basin called the "Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study" (GLMRIS) that examines 19 separate locations where invasive carp could cross from the Mississippi River Basin to the Great Lakes Basin, and considers a large number of potential ways to stop the further migration;

AND WHEREAS, including the invasive carp, there are 39 invasive species in the two basins that present a threat to cross over into the other basin in the near future;

AND WHEREAS, once an invasive species establishes itself in an ecosystem, it is exceedingly difficult to eradicate it, and it often inflicts serious damage on the ecosystem and imposes major costs in the form of efforts to control it;

AND WHEREAS, invasive species have already inflicted hundreds of millions in damage across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, and invasive carp pose a serious threat to the \$7 billion sport and commercial fishery that support the economy and help define the culture of the entire region;

AND WHEREAS, Canadian and U.S. citizens across the basin have expressed serious concern about the invasive carp and other invasive species, and are demanding prompt action;

AND WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities initiative has taken the position by resolution that physical separation of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System provides the most effective means of keeping the invasive carp from reaching Lake Michigan;

AND WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and Great Lakes Commission completed a report entitled "Restoring the Natural Divide" on January 31, 2012 that established the feasibility of physical separation of the two basins in the Chicago Area Waterway System that would also maintain or enhance water quality, flood control, and transportation in the System;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the invasive carp in the Mississippi River system pose one of the greatest threats to the integrity and well-being of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, including the 40 million Canadians and Americans who live there;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that preventing the invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem needs to be approached with the greatest sense of urgency by all those responsible for dealing with this matter;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that physical separation is the most effective way to keep invasive carp from entering Lake Michigan through the Chicago Area Waterway System, and such barriers would also prevent the movement of many other invasive species from one basin to the other;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that physical separation is feasible and can be done in a way that maintains or enhances water quality, flood control, and transportation in the system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers should take all necessary steps accelerate its process to complete its work on the Chicago Area Waterway System portion of the study no later than December 2013, and give fair and thorough consideration to the physical separation option;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all cooperating U.S. and Canadian agencies continue operation of the electric barrier, intensive commercial fishing, and other methods to keep the invasive carp out of the Great Lakes while a long term solution is found and implemented;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that additional work should be undertaken immediately to develop more details of the "Restoring the Natural Divide," report, with a special emphasis on ways to finance the necessary infrastructure investments;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, once a preferred option is identified, all parties should move forward to implement the solution in an expedited fashion with the greatest sense of urgency;

AND THAT that a copy of the resolution supporting the Initiative be immediately sent to the Inter governmental Affairs Committee, the GLSCI Executive Director, the Premier of Ontario, MP and MPP's of Thunder Bay-Rainy River, Superior North; and NOMA."

Should you have any further questions relative to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

J. Lavoie

for
Mr. John Hannam
City Clerk

JSH/TL

Cc: Inter Governmental Affairs Committee
D. Ullrich - GLSCI Executive Director
Kathleen Wynne - Premier of Ontario
MPP Michael Gravelle – Thunder Bay Superior North
MP Bruce Hyer – Thunder Bay Superior North
MPP Bill Mauro – Thunder Bay – Atikokan
MP John Rafferty – Thunder Bay – Rainy River
Charla Robinson - NOMA