

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2013

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman,
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member,
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member Rahall,

We commend your leadership managing new legislation to address our nation's pressing water resource development needs. As the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure considers H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA), we urge your support for robust aquatic invasive species prevention and management.

In the Great Lakes region, the threat of invasive Asian carp remains a pressing concern. As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) concludes its Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) of potential solutions to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes, it is critical that we provide the authorization necessary to act with appropriate expedience to protect our \$7 billion fishery and the jobs that depend on it. Section 5011 of the Senate Water Resources Development Act (S. 601) would authorize the implementation of measures recommended in the GLMRIS study, provided the Secretary reports such action to the appropriate Congressional committees of jurisdiction. We urge the inclusion of similar language in H.R. 3080.

The USACE currently plays a key role in preventing the spread of harmful invasive species in many parts of the country. While H.R. 3080 includes important provisions for many priority functions of the USACE, invasive species control is regrettably absent in the bill in its current form. Given developments since the most recent WRDA bill in 2007, we believe it would be appropriate to update existing authorizations accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your leadership in meeting the need for new water resource legislation.

Sincerely,

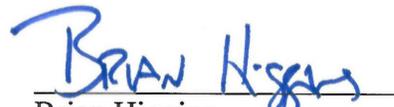


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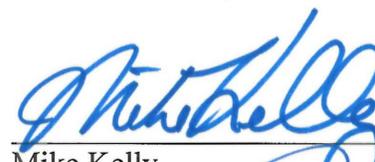

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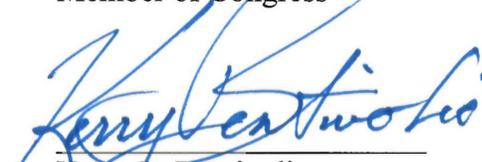

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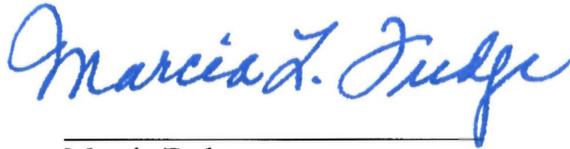
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