



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

November 4, 2019

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Lieutenant General Semonite:

On behalf of the state of Michigan, thank you for your leadership in preventing invasive species and bighead, black, and silver carp specifically from moving into the waters of the Great Lakes. We look forward to energetically supporting Congressional authorization of the Chief's Report for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam and initiating the Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design (PED) phase of the project. Additionally, I wanted you to be aware of and to memorialize in writing several important features of Michigan's support for this project at large.

First, Michigan supports the state of Illinois in its role as non-federal sponsor of the project and we are committed to working with and generating support among other jurisdictions for their support as well. The Great Lakes states have a long history of working productively and collaboratively on complicated invasive fish species (e.g. sea lamprey) as well as on issues which support maritime navigation (e.g. the Soo Locks). These prominent but not exclusive examples demonstrate a capacity for supporting long-term solutions to difficult problems that benefit citizens in the region as well as the nation as a whole.

Second, the state of Michigan is prepared to financially support the PED phase of the project. Specifically, through recent appropriation, \$8 million has been dedicated for the Brandon Road project. Our State Budget Office, at our request, has confirmed that these funds may be used as non-federal match for the PED.

Third, because of our readiness to contribute substantially to the non-federal match component of the PED, it is our strong desire to participate in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) coordination calls related to the Brandon Road project. Doing so recognizes the state of Michigan as a partner rather than an interested party.

Fourth, Michigan is fully supportive of the design outlined in the Chief's Report, including all technological elements identified therein. We also acknowledge that the electrical barrier is an effective means for preventing the movement of fish and believe that existing electrical barriers should remain operational and in use prior to, during, and after the development of the physical barrier, until such time other technology is proven at least equally effective to the electrical barrier.

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Lastly, we have made a standing offer to the state of Illinois to serve as a convener of basin-wide collaboration concerning the Brandon Road project. This commitment includes securing a facilitator, conducting regular updates, and soliciting input from partner jurisdictions throughout the basin as the project progresses.

Let me again convey our appreciation for the efforts the USACE and you personally have taken to ensure that the Brandon Road project prevents invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes. We agree with the USACE that the proposed project represents the only long-term solution to this threat, absent full hydrologic separation.

If, in addition to the items described above, you are aware of any other ways that the state of Michigan can assist this project moving forward in the swiftest possible manner, please know we are fully ready to embrace those opportunities. Should you or your team require any additional information, or should you have any questions regarding the state of Michigan's position as it relates to this project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Daniel Eichinger
Director
517-284-6367

cc: Colonel Aaron Reisinger, USACE
Colonel Steven Sattinger, USACE
Ms. Jessica Himes, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, Illinois
Ms. Colleen Callahan, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Ms. Kara Cook, Policy Advisor on Energy and Environment, Office of
the Governor, Michigan