



March 28, 2018

Colonel Craig S. Baumgartner
Commander, Rock Island District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004 Clock Tower Building
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Dear Colonel Baumgartner:

This letter is to express the nonbinding commitment of the States of Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, the Province of Ontario, and the City of Chicago for non-federal sponsorship of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) GLMRIS-Brandon Road Feasibility Study and Project. This study will evaluate control mechanisms to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) from the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes basin. Protecting the ecosystems and economies of the Great Lakes, while also maintaining navigability, is a top priority for the Great Lakes States, as outlined in the Great Lakes Commission list of 2017 federal priorities. As you are aware, the Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system in the world, supporting a \$7 billion fishing industry, numerous fish and wildlife habitats, and the diverse needs of more than 30 million people for drinking water, commerce, electric power, and overall quality of life.

Having healthy water systems is not only necessary for maintaining high quality natural resource habitats, but also to serve as a driver of regional economic growth and vitality. The Great Lakes, in addition to their enormous ecological significance, also contribute significantly to the economies of the Great Lakes States and the nation of Canada.

The feasibility study was authorized in WRDA 2007 to be carried out at federal expense, in consultation with states and other entities. The study will explore options for a project of regional and national significance as it not only impacts numerous states in the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins, but it will also serve as a national model for ANS control systems in navigable waterways. For this reason, we will continue to call upon Congress to federally fund the implementation of the project(s) resulting from the feasibility study.

We agree with the USACE that ANS control is a shared responsibility between all concerned stakeholders, and that effective control will require multiple actions on the part of many interested parties. The Great Lakes States have already expended significant resources in collaborating on surveillance policy and activities, response exercises, and ensuring a comprehensive approach to the management of invasive carp.

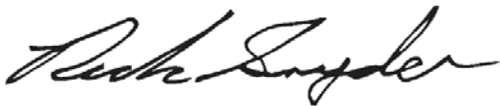
We understand the responsibilities of the non-federal sponsor to include the cost share of construction of the recommended project at 35%. Due to the national beneficial impact of this work, it is difficult for a single, non-federal entity to commit to funding these activities. Therefore, this letter constitutes only a preliminary expression of intent to further the GLMRIS study and is not a contractual obligation.

However, we would like to pursue the combined use of state and local credits for federal projects (as authorized under the 2007 Water Resources and Development Act, Sec. 3061, B.(1)(E) and (2) and as authorized under the 2016 WIIN Act, Sec. 1171, (1) and (2)) to fulfill the 35% cost-share requirement for the construction of the project resulting from the GLMRIS study.

In addition, to ensure the long-term navigability opportunities of this lock and dam and throughout these waterways, we would anticipate the USACE will maintain the important responsibilities attributed to the operation and maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation of the constructed project for those portions that are current federal responsibility. For those elements that are in addition to USACE's current operation and maintenance activities, the State of Michigan is willing to accept the lead responsibility for these cost-share requirements.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Angela Ayers, Director of Strategic Policy for Governor Snyder, at (517) 241-5033 or ayersa@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



Rick Snyder
Governor
State of Michigan



Kathleen Wynne
Premier
Province of Ontario



Scott Walker
Governor
State of Wisconsin



John Kasich
Governor
State of Ohio



Rahm Emanuel
Mayor
City of Chicago