



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
LT. GOVERNOR

February 22, 2019

Joseph Redican
Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Directorate of Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Dear Mr. Redician:

Thank you for the extended opportunity to comment on the proposed report of the Chief of Engineers and the notice of the final feasibility report and technical appendices on the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study – Brandon Road, Will County, Illinois. Protecting the Great Lakes is one of my top priorities, and as we continue to seek solutions to keep invasive Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, I appreciate the opportunity to fully engage on the issue with my team and partners in other jurisdictions.

We've got to act quickly if we're going to protect our Great Lakes from Asian Carp. Michigan's tourism industry and the hundreds of thousands of jobs it supports depend on the preservation of our water, but right now, a rapidly increasing number of Asian Carp are being detected near Brandon Road, and it's putting the future of our Great Lakes, our economy, and Michiganders' well-being at risk. We appreciate the work that the state of Illinois and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have done to grant us time to develop further advanced technologies to protect the Great Lakes while still allowing for barge movement through Brandon Road Lock. Unfortunately, our time is running out, with the documented movement of adult fish moving 21 river miles per year through 2009, detection of invasive carp eggs, larval fish, juvenile fish found further upstream in 2015, routine findings of bighead and silver carp at Rock Run Rookery and within 6 miles of Brandon Road, and in 2018, the third invasive carp captured within 9 miles of Lake Michigan.



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While I support selected alternatives for the layering of technologies at Brandon Road, I'm concerned by the developments of the past 12 months, which have tripled the estimated costs for the project without substantial changes to the plan. Moving forward into the project and engineering and design phase, I request expanded and more substantial integration with Michigan and other partner jurisdictions in early stage development and would like to see this recommendation in the Chief's Report. This integration would provide more opportunities for transparency and understanding and for USACE and partners to expand ideas and potential integration of innovative and improved approaches to accomplish our shared goals. It's important that USACE brings multiple perspectives to the table by engaging with regional jurisdictions and the nonfederal sponsor.

Thank you again for the extension of the deadline for comments on the Chief's report. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this critically important plan and would like to thank the Army Corps of Engineers for its efforts. I look forward to the State of Michigan continuing to provide input in the process as USACE takes critical action to protect the environment and economies of the entire Great Lakes region. If you have any further questions or would like to reach out to my administration, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kara Cook, Environmental Policy Advisor to the office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, 517-241-1160, cookK14@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor