

## Quotes to Accompany Release of “Restoring the Natural Divide”

### **Illinois Governor Pat Quinn:**

Invasive species such as Asian carp pose a serious threat to the Great Lakes ecosystem, and we must work to prevent them from reaching the lakes. We must work together to develop long-term sustainable solutions to invasive species transfer that address transportation, flood management and wastewater treatment in our waterways. We appreciate the work put into this study and look forward to putting recommendations to practical use as we partner to protect one of our most valuable natural resources.

### **Mayor Rahm Emanuel, City of Chicago:**

I welcome the ideas presented in this report from the Cities Initiative and the Great Lakes Commission. I am very interested in solutions that improve flood control, transportation, and water quality in the Chicago River while protecting our Great Lakes. We are eager to work with leaders around the region to plan solutions that work for Chicago and also stop the spread of invasive species. We are working to restore the Chicago River as a new recreational frontier and economic asset for the future of Chicago, and we welcome support from around the region for solutions that would help us do that.

### **Mayor George Heartwell, City of Grand Rapids, Mich.:**

There has never been any question that restoring the divide of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins is a complicated but necessary approach to keeping Asian carp out of the Lakes. Now that we have the engineering analysis and initial cost projections we can seriously explore this strategy. I am proud that the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative were co-leaders in this effort to bring good engineering and economic data to the discussion.

### **U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (Illinois)**

I welcome the recommendations put forth by the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in this report. It shows that Congress needs to move quickly to pass the Stop Asian Carp Act – a bill that would require the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite a similar study so that we can fully understand the costs and benefits of this method. As we work to determine the best, long-term solution for controlling invasive species, we must ensure that the day-to-day efforts of multiple federal, state and local agencies under the direction of the Coordinated Response Commander continue without interruption.

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**Michigan Governor Rick Snyder**

Asian carp represent just one of the invasive species threatening our Great Lakes, but they are the most urgent. This report helps in the search for a permanent solution that shuts the door on harmful invaders while balancing the important needs of Chicago area residents and business interests.

**U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (Michigan):**

I applaud and thank the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative for completing this report, and for everything they do to help protect the Great Lakes and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that depend on them. I introduced the Stop Asian Carp Act to require the Army Corp of Engineers to develop an action plan within 18 months to stop Asian Carp from causing irreparable harm to the Great Lakes. Some said this could not be done in 18 months, but these groups have completed a similar report in about a year. We must act now to protect the Great Lakes from this dangerous invasive species.

**U.S. Senator Carl Levin (Michigan):**

I hope this study makes an important contribution to our fight against Asian carp and to protecting our Great Lakes. I urge the Army Corps of Engineers to incorporate this document into its own analysis of these issues so it can accelerate its study and we can move from analysis to action.

**U.S. Representative Dave Camp (Mich.- 4<sup>th</sup> District):**

The threat Asian carp pose to the Great Lakes ecosystem and economy is urgent, and I appreciate the work of the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. This study shows that hydrological separation is both technically and economically feasible. I am hopeful their study will lay the ground work to make permanent separation a reality in order to protect the Great Lakes and the hundreds of thousands of jobs and \$7 billion economy they support.

**Robert Lambe, Great Lakes Fishery Commission Chair:**

The Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative study addresses the Chicago Area Waterway System as a conduit for invasive species transfer. We know that the Great Lakes can be both a source and a recipient of invasive species to the United States and Canada. By addressing the problem in the Chicago area, we address the problem continent-wide. We in the Great Lakes basin are indebted to the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative for their leadership and proactive efforts to find foolproof solutions to this major problem.