



July 8, 2019

RESOLUTION

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers Basinwide Coalition to Prevent Asian Carp from Entering the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin by Taking Action at Brandon Road

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WHEREAS, the introduction and rapid spread of aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin has shown to result in both environmental and economic detriments to native biota, water quality, fisheries, commercial navigation, and recreational boating; and,

WHEREAS, bighead, silver, and black carp pose a threat to the fishery and recreational opportunities in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region and to our tourism economy, and once established they would be nearly impossible to eradicate and would join sea lamprey, zebra mussels, and other aquatic invasive species that Federal and state and provincial governments and businesses in the region spend millions of dollars per year to mitigate and control; and,

WHEREAS, there still is no evidence of live bighead, silver, or black carp inhabiting or reproducing in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin; and,

WHEREAS, there is opportunity now to protect the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin, minimize the risk of irreparable harm, to the system, and prevent decades of future fisheries management costs; and,

WHEREAS, the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (“the Conference”) has sustained a long history of nonpartisan collaboration and cooperation to confront the region’s most pressing environmental and economic issues; and,

WHEREAS, Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Des Plaines River provides a strategic focal point in the waterway that logically can provide additional and enhanced controls in the system as other long-term measures are developed to prevent bighead, silver, and black carp from moving closer to the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has submitted a Chief’s Report to Congress with a plan for both technical and nontechnical actions to prevent movement of bighead, silver, and black carp from entering the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, protection of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin is a shared responsibility of the Great Lakes states and provinces.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference will support Illinois in its nonfederal sponsorship role, by engaging in technical and policy teams as necessary; and, facilitating discussions among the states and provinces regarding providing support where feasible to a project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes Governors request that Congress immediately authorize and appropriate the funding needed for engineering and design options for a Brandon Road Lock and Dam project to allow construction to begin as soon as possible to protect the health of the Great Lakes and their fisheries to the fullest.

Adopted by the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec on this 8th day of July 2019.