



Upper
Mississippi River
Basin Association

ILLINOIS, IOWA, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, WISCONSIN

July 24, 2013

The Honorable John Fleming
Chairman
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife,
Oceans, and Insular Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife,
Oceans, and Insular Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
423 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fleming and Representative Sablan:

On behalf of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA), I am writing to express our member states' strong support for H.R. 358, the *Strategic Response to Asian Carp Invasion Act*.

Formed by the Governors of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin in 1981, UMRBA represents its member states' common water resource interests and works collaboratively with both state and federal agencies that have management responsibilities on the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). UMRBA's member states have a vital interest in protecting and enhancing the river system's economic, recreational, and ecosystem benefits. As such, our states are acutely aware of the need for effective, efficient, and collaborative approaches to combat invasive species, including Asian carp.

UMRBA's member states believe the provisions in H.R. 358 are critical components in combating Asian carp, bringing greater – and much needed – focus to the Mississippi River and Ohio River Basins while improving coordination in federal and interstate state efforts. The states strongly support a multi-agency approach, recognizing that a central point of coordination is needed to efficiently and effectively communicate critical information including prevention and control techniques, research needs, and Asian carp range, while also conducting cross-cutting accounting of expenditures. Further, our states believe the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the most appropriate agency to act in this coordination role and that the provisions of H.R. 358 can be effectively implemented to complement and enhance ongoing state, federal, and local activities while avoiding duplication of effort. We also suggest the Subcommittee consider expanding this approach to address other critical aquatic nuisance species.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651/224-2880 or dbuntin@umrba.org. Our states look forward to continuing our collaboration with the federal agencies in this critically important effort.

Sincerely,

Dru Buntin
Executive Director

cc: Representative Betty McCollum
Members, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs

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