

**** Alliance for the Great Lakes ** Biodiversity Project ** Clean Water Action **
Eastern Surfing Association - Great Lakes District ** Environmental Advocates of
New York ** Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund ** Great Lakes United
** Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited ** Izaak Walton League – Bush Lake Chapter
** Izaak Walton League - Dwight Lydell Chapter ** Izaak Walton League - Michigan
Division ** Izaak Walton League - Minnesota Division ** Izaak Walton League -
New York Division ** Michigan United Conservation Clubs ** National Wildlife
Federation ** Ohio Environmental Council ** Save the River ** Wyldewood Surf
Club****

October 28, 2005

Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable James Inhofe
Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works
453 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Sensenbrenner and Congressman Inhofe:

The undersigned Great Lakes organizations are writing in strong support of bill H.R. 3049/ S. 1402 the *Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act*. We support listing Asian carp (black, bighead and silver) as injurious under the Lacey Act and protecting the Great Lakes by closing a major loophole in the trade regime.

It is essential that Asian carp be prevented from invading the Great Lakes whether introduced through live trade or migration through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. As we have starkly seen in the Mississippi River basin, after imported Asian carp escaped from southern aquaculture ponds, they spread quickly, damaging aquatic environments and displacing native fish populations. They are extremely prolific, rapidly grow to enormous sizes, substantially alter aquatic habitats, and aggressively out-compete native fish for food. Should Asian carp get into the Great Lakes, there is no question that they will have a significant negative impact on the ecosystem and economically valuable fish populations.

Our organizations represent environmental, conservation, hunting, fishing, sport, and recreational interests unified through our commitment to a healthy Great Lakes. We have worked to support efforts to prohibit live invasive fish from being imported or shipped across state lines, whether Asian carp or any other dangerous species. Our organizations have worked in various capacities to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ban Asian carp under the Lacey Act; promote the construction of barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; investigate means of permanent hydrological separation of the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins; develop recommendations within the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration on trade and importation; and support the recent ban on the trade of live Asian carp, snakeheads and gobies in the province of Ontario.

We applaud efforts to use the Lacey Act to immediately stop the interstate transportation of these damaging species. We also applaud leadership to act upon the sound science demonstrating the threat these species present to the Great Lakes. Collectively, we must do everything possible to stop the spread of Asian carp through all means available. We hope Congress will pass H.R. 3049/ S. 1402, the *Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act*, as soon as possible. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Nalbone from Great Lakes United at: 716-213-0408.

Sincerely,

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CC:
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Representative Mark Green
Senator Jim Jeffords
Representative John Conyers, Jr.
Joy Mulinex, Great Lakes Task Force