



RE: Support of \$8 million for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project to help keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes

Dear Senator Bumstead and Representative Allor,

In May of 2019, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent Congress a final plan that would rebuild the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois to prevent the introduction of invasive Asian carp into the Great Lakes. Both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have included authorization of the Brandon Road project in two bills currently moving through Congress.

In order for the project to begin, however, a preconstruction, engineering and design (PED) agreement is still required to be signed by the state of Illinois and the Corps. Illinois is the non-federal sponsor of the Brandon Road project. The non-federal cost-share for the PED is \$10 million, of which Michigan had previously pledged \$8 million to aid in funding.

In March of 2020, Gov. Whitmer line-item vetoed the authorization to spend the \$8 million originally intended to fund the PED because of the need to address the public health response to COVID-19. **Now is the time to restore the \$8m in any forthcoming appropriations legislation as** Asian carp still threaten Michigan's and the entire Great Lakes commercial and sport fishery and outdoor economy.

Recreational angling supports a \$2.3 billion investment in Michigan's economy annually, according to a study conducted by Michigan State University commissioned by Michigan United Conservation Clubs.¹ These economic benefits, along with the important ecosystems of the Great Lakes region, are at stake should invasive Asian carp enter our waterways.

The undersigned organizations strongly urge the Michigan Legislature to reappropriate the \$8 million dollars intended for the PED and further, that Gov. Whitmer support such reappropriation. Restoring this investment will help advance the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project along without further delay and help prevent the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

¹ <https://mucc.org/about-us/economic-impact-study-2019/>

Sincerely,

Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Michigan Boating Industries Association
Michigan Charter Boat Association
Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman's Association
National Wildlife Federation
Trout Unlimited
Michigan Trout Unlimited
Ducks Unlimited

CC:

Department of Natural Resources Director Daniel Eichinger
Executive Office Policy Advisory Kara Cook
Senator Jim Stamas
Representative Shane Hernandez