

GLMRIS

GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN STUDY



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First Name(required): Lia Last Name(required): Montgomery

Organization/Tribe (Official Representatives only): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code (required): 54201

Public Scoping Meeting Location: _____

Date of Comment: _____

Comment Number: _____



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Lia Montgomery 54201 on Lake Michigan

Since Ypsilanti, almost a year ago, I've watched in disbelief as you fail to respond to warnings of disaster. You let barge operators and their lawyers muffle calls for urgency, and politics and profit outweigh the protection of an entire ecosystem. You disregard facts you don't like, so that you can continue to study to find ones you do. You act as if you have the luxury of time. You don't. I wonder what you need to hear from us now in order to finally see this is a crisis.

YOUR TIME
FRAME OF
2015 IS
~~irresponsible~~
for the canal
is vested w/
them
under the
constitution

I've watched ~~as~~ Congress ~~fail~~ ^{fail} to take the lead even though the ultimate decision "The Great Lakes are on the brink of an ecologic catastrophe" and "if the pattern of deterioration is not reversed immediately, the damage could be irreparable" "A comprehensive restoration of the system is needed to prevent the Great Lakes from collapsing". Those are the words of 60 members of Congress, in a bill introduced in 2006. The bill never came out of committee.

to address ~~Asian Carp~~ INVASIVE SPECIES

Of the 25 bills introduced in the past 9 years, only one was brought to the floor. That was late last year, stopping the importation of carp, not the ones swimming toward our Lakes.

fish experts still

Col Berczek has been quoted saying we don't know enough about asian carp. 8 years ago, Mayor Daley's summit of scientists recommended physically separating the basins. 9 years ago, Jerry Rasmussen, the US Fish and Wildlife carp expert, published a comprehensive study of bighead and silver carp and warned, time was of the essence if we were to keep asian carp out of Lake Michigan.

with 10 yrs of experience on rivers in the Miss. River Basin.

Yet, last Feb, Jo-Ellen Darcy, still couldn't say the electric barrier was 100% effective, but boasted that we hadn't found carp above the barrier. 4 months later, we found ~~an~~ asian carp above the barrier and Chicagoans began trading carp recipes.

In 2004, President Bush declared the Great Lakes a national treasure. He was recognizing the 200 years it takes for one drop of water to go from Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean; the 10,000 years it took to create the world's largest body of fresh water; the fact that they could cover the 48 states in 9 ft of water, yet only 1% is replaced each year.

We must be guided by a higher calling when it comes to these Waters. Short-sighted self interest of commerce or consumption should never trump the Treasure that are these Lakes. If George Bush had declared the Great Lakes a National Park, instead of a national treasure, we would not be here right now debating what to do about asian carp.

Here in Wisconsin, we honor the legacy of ecologist, Aldo Leopold, who inspired us to see our natural world as a "community to which we belong", not as a "commodity". For unnumbered centuries of human history," he wrote, "the wilderness has given way. The priority of industry has become dogma. Are we as yet sufficiently enlightened to realize that we must now challenge that dogma, or do without our wilderness?" That was 1925.

We know these Lakes intimately and we remind you of our inherent stewardship of this perfect gift of Life on this North American Continent. How will we be judged if blind ambition toward material gain is our only leader? The Corps, with all its expertise, or Congress, with all its

power, will never be able to restore a dead Lake, or raise the water levels, if, in our selfish need for more, we drain our Treasure away. We've been warned, over and over, and our children will shame us for having turned our backs.

As long as these Lakes are still living and breathing, I will continue to hope that someone will finally lead; that it's not too late... that there is still time. And I will continue to speak for those that can't...the mergansers and goldeneyes I see every day, the sturgeon and salmon that only ask to live as "community".

Let me end by quoting Onondaga Chief Oren Lyons, in an address to the NGO's of the United Nations in 1977:

"I do not see a delegation for the four footed. I see no seat for the eagles.

We forget and we consider ourselves superior. But we are, after all, a mere part of the Creation.

And we must consider to understand where we are.

And we stand somewhere between the mountain and the Ant. Somewhere, and only there, as part and parcel of the Creation."