

IN RE: GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER
INTERBASIN STUDY
PUBLIC MEETING

January 16, 2014
4:04 p.m.

Taken at:
Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

APPEARANCES:

Dave Wethington, GLMRIS CAWS Project Manager

Colonel Frederic A. Drummond, Jr., Commander, Chicago
District

John Goss, Council on Environmental Quality

Kendall Zaborowski, Planner

Kyle Shaw, Office of Counsel - Lakes and Rivers
Division

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. ZABOROWSKI: All right. Again, good
3 afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Kendall
4 Zaborowski, I'm with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5 Chicago District, and I will be moderating this
6 evening's public meeting. I would like to welcome
7 you all to today's Great Lakes and Mississippi River
8 Interbasin Study, or GLMRIS as we'll refer to it,
9 public meeting.

10 Again, I'd like to ask everyone to
11 silence any cell phones, and then also I'd like to
12 mention if you want to have a side conversation, if
13 you wouldn't mind stepping out back into the lobby so
14 as -- you don't distract anything. We've got some
15 microphones and a stenographer trying to record
16 things, we don't want to distract from that.

17 Before beginning the meeting, I'd like
18 to mention to everybody that the bathrooms are
19 located -- if you go back out the doors you came in
20 and just to your left-hand side, there's both men and
21 women's restrooms; and also in the event of an
22 emergency, you can exit through the doors that you
23 came in or to the right or the left side of the stage
24 there are emergency exits as well.

25 So when you arrived here this evening,

1 you were given some materials. The first is a green
2 meeting agenda, and that's going to be our schedule
3 for this evening's meeting. The next form is this
4 yellow comment registration form. If you'd like to
5 ask a question or submit a comment or make a comment
6 here tonight, we need you to fill out this, if you
7 haven't already done so, and turn it in at the front
8 desk. It also has instructions on how to submit a
9 written comment to us. You can fill that out and
10 drop it off with, again, our front desk tonight
11 before you leave.

12 The next piece of paper that you were
13 given was this blue paper, and it's frequently asked
14 questions about GLMRIS and what other aquatic
15 nuisance species efforts that's being undertaken by
16 the Army Corps of Engineers. And then the last
17 handout that you were given when you came in was this
18 booklet, and this is a summary of the GLMRIS report,
19 and it contains information that we will be
20 presenting here tonight.

21 Now, I'd like to take a moment to
22 introduce tonight's panel. Starting to your left,
23 farthest away from me, is Mr. John Goss, he is with
24 the White House Council on Environmental Quality.
25 Next to him is Colonel Frederick Drummond, he is the

1 commander of the Chicago District U.S. Army Corps of
2 Engineers, and then closest to me is Dave Wethington,
3 he is the GLMRIS project manager, also from the
4 Chicago District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

5 And before we move on, I'd like to
6 mention -- or thank Lieutenant Colonel Beaudoin, the
7 commander of the Buffalo District, we're in his area
8 of responsibility tonight, so he is our host this
9 evening.

10 For those of you wishing to speak at our
11 meeting, please note if you preregistered on the
12 project website and did not sign in at our welcome
13 table, please do so now. Also, if you have not
14 registered at our project website and wish to give an
15 oral comment, please go out and sign up now.

16 The Corps of Engineers is hosting
17 several public meetings throughout the study area in
18 an effort to give opportunities for those of you in
19 the study area to learn about the GLMRIS report and
20 to also give us comments about the GLMRIS report. So
21 this is our third meeting of several and we're really
22 glad to have you guys with us.

23 The GLMRIS report in its entirety can be
24 viewed and downloaded on the GLMRIS website, which is
25 <http://GLMRIS.anl.gov>, and that should be on several

1 of the materials that you have tonight.

2 So our GLMRIS team has organized this
3 public meeting to accomplish two goals: The first
4 goal is to present the information contained in the
5 GLMRIS report. The second goal is to solicit input
6 from you on the information that is presented in the
7 GLMRIS report. The Army Corps of Engineers will be
8 collecting comments on the GLMRIS report through
9 March 3rd of this year. Comments then will be
10 compiled and posted on the GLMRIS website.

11 For comments to be formally included,
12 they need to be given during an oral comment period
13 at one of our public meetings, submitted as a written
14 comment either through mail or at one of our public
15 meetings, or they need to be submitted through our
16 project website. You can get on-line and there's a
17 form where it's easy to submit comments that way.

18 So if you have any questions or concerns
19 during any of the presentations or during the comment
20 period, you know, find somebody with a red lanyard,
21 we'll do our best to help you out with anything you
22 might need.

23 And, again, I'd like to mention that the
24 oral comment -- or that the -- excuse me, that the
25 comment period runs through March 3rd of this year.

1 So if you'll take a look at your
2 agendas, now we're going to -- the public meeting is
3 going to begin with a few speakers over here, we'll
4 give a presentation on the GLMRIS report, and then
5 we'll begin our public comment period. And the
6 public comment period is scheduled to end at 7 p.m.
7 tonight.

8 I'd now like to turn it over to Mr.
9 John Goss and he will give you some more information.

10 MR. GOSS: Thanks everyone for coming
11 out on a winter day to help us work on the next steps
12 for this very important project. I am John Goss, I
13 report to the Environmental Policy office at the
14 White House, and this is an office that coordinates
15 federal agencies in projects like this.

16 Fortunately on the team for this project
17 we have very active state partners. Also, I want to
18 thank Ohio DNR for being a very involved contributor,
19 and also they have done significant work on Ohio
20 Rivers -- or Ohio River Asian Carp Control Program
21 and Ohio Asian Carp Control Program, which has been
22 very helpful for us on this program.

23 We do have a team that works together,
24 communicates regularly and work in a coordinated
25 fashion called the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating

1 Committee. I want to give you just a quick update on
2 progress and a kind of a current status on the carp
3 control plans at this point.

4 It is a four-part strategy. We have the
5 electric barriers in the Chicago Waterway System, the
6 third barrier is being constructed right now, which
7 is -- learning from previous barriers that have been
8 built, this is going to be an even more effective
9 block in the Chicago Ship Canal. We have extensive
10 monitoring, that's fishing sample, electrofishing,
11 continuing both lakeside of the barrier and south of
12 the barrier area, have sampled over 50,000 fish in
13 that area this past year, no Asian carp have been
14 found near the barrier or lakeside of the barrier.

15 Also, new control technologies that are
16 not in the GLMRIS report are still being worked on by
17 research teams, and we're making progress with those,
18 and then the GLMRIS project certainly is the
19 long-term strategy.

20 Just a few things to mention. I think
21 we are continuing to test carbon dioxide as a
22 possible use with an additional barrier, it does
23 repel carp we know from pond tests, and we are
24 looking at other applications, water cannons and
25 other things that we know will help control Asian

1 carp. We're working with those areas that are
2 infested with Asian carp.

3 Commercial harvesting continues in that
4 50-mile stretch south of the barrier. Certainly
5 another 50,000 Asian carp have been taken out this
6 past year, bigheads and silvers, to reduce that
7 pressure on the barrier, and we will continue that
8 monitoring on both sides for the foreseeable future.
9 We've got a new budget approved for another year of
10 projects.

11 Also, I want to mention some things that
12 are not in the report today. What we've been calling
13 the other pathways, of which Ohio has three that are
14 getting some continuing work, that's Little Killbuck
15 Creek and the Ohio and Erie Canal at Long Lake in
16 particular, those are in further evaluation for what
17 could be the best permanent way to separate the
18 headwaters of both basins so that we could not -- we
19 would not have any future connections for invasive
20 species transfer.

21 Also, the number one site that was found
22 in the study of all the 18 possible connections at
23 Eagle Marsh over near Fort Wayne, Indiana, does have
24 a plan that we expect to be completed in 2014, and,
25 hopefully, construction soon after that will -- will

1 divide things for the Wabash and Maumee headwaters
2 there at Fort Wayne. So that's another block that
3 will be in place we believe within the year to -- to
4 help us protect Lake Erie and your side of the Great
5 Lakes.

6 Also, there's a natural carp control
7 program being worked on by states up and down the
8 Ohio River, Mississippi River. Teams of people are
9 looking at ways to slow the spread, stop the spread
10 and reduce the threat, and certainly we're looking
11 forward to progress on all of those areas.

12 And beyond the Great Lakes states, that
13 means that we've got a number of states that have a
14 stake in this. So if we are stopping invasive
15 species from getting out of the Great Lakes, we're
16 helping protect all of these other states that are
17 colored in on the map here. And as we look to
18 Congress to funding for the long-term solution, it
19 will require a partnership and bipartisan efforts to
20 continue in all of these states as well.

21 We've had some excellent success in the
22 Great Lakes when all -- all of the interested parties
23 have pulled together, certainly starting back in the
24 1950s with sea lamprey control, it continues as an
25 effective way to manage an invasive species that's

1 already established. The Great Lakes Water Quality
2 Initiative with our Canada partners is very important
3 for keeping water quality in -- in control, under
4 control. The Great Lakes Compact, as you remember,
5 was a fairly unexpected development that we got
6 everyone to agree to -- to accomplish something
7 together. Also, the Great Lakes Restoration
8 Initiative continues to fund the ongoing efforts.
9 Congress just approved another \$300 million for this
10 year's budget to keep those projects moving along.

11 So keep in mind that even though the
12 project we're talking about today for Asian carp
13 control is fairly long on the timeline, it's fairly
14 expensive and fairly complicated, the Great Lakes
15 states have proven they can do these kind of
16 projects, and so we look forward to your help.

17 As we take a little pause here for the
18 next 60 days and get comments and recommendations, we
19 are very interested in hearing from you about any
20 specific suggestions. If you could direct your
21 comments to a particular alternative, that would be
22 also helpful as we're evaluating what the next best
23 -- best steps will be.

24 Ideally a consensus will emerge for one,
25 maybe two alternatives to move farther along with

1 design with, hopefully, support from lots of
2 different interested parties and stakeholder groups
3 around the Great Lakes. So there's no single
4 recommendation today, but we're hoping to move that
5 in the discussion in the next few weeks looking for a
6 consensus to move forward.

7 So, again, thank you for your help on
8 this. We would appreciate comments coming in in the
9 next few weeks and look forward to trying to get an
10 agreement on the next steps going forward.

11 Next I'm going to turn it over to Dave
12 Wethington -- excuse me, to Colonel Drummond from the
13 Chicago District.

14 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Thank you, John, I
15 appreciate it.

16 Good afternoon, I think we'll get into
17 the evening before we're done tonight. As mentioned
18 earlier, my name is Colonel Frederic A. Drummond,
19 I'm current commander of the Chicago District and
20 responsible for the greater metropolitan area of
21 Chicago, about 9.1 million people, and a whole host
22 of other things that go on there.

23 I would like to thank the library here
24 for allowing us to host this very important
25 discussion. As John had mentioned, we are interested

1 in your dialogue. Later on I think Congresswoman
2 Kaptur will be here. We'll have the fortune and
3 pleasure to have the Ohio Attorney General,
4 Mr. DeWine, he is present tonight. So thank you,
5 sir, very much for attending this.

6 So the Corps is excited to have another
7 -- to have achieved another milestone in the mission
8 to prevent the movement of aquatic invasive species,
9 or ANS as we call it. This achievement is the
10 submission of the Great Lakes Mississippi River
11 Interbasin Study report to Congress that happened on
12 the 6th of January, we call this document GLMRIS --
13 you can see it up here -- for short.

14 GLMRIS is a very complex study that
15 examines the opportunities to prevent the aquatic
16 transfer of many ANS, not just fish like Asian carp,
17 but also other species, and you'll hear tonight 13 of
18 them, along the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
19 Basin divide.

20 In GLMRIS Congress asked the Corps to
21 study a range of options and technologies available
22 to prevent ANS movement between the Great Lakes and
23 the Mississippi River Basin through aquatic
24 connections. The GLMRIS report outlines a variety of
25 potential prevention methods and presents an

1 evaluation criteria to help readers distinguish among
2 the various alternatives.

3 The purpose of the GLMRIS report is to
4 paint what I call an objective picture of several
5 alternatives to offer decision-makers and
6 stakeholders and the public information about those
7 alternatives. The GLMRIS report does not make
8 recommendations, nor does it prioritize the plans.

9 Our GLMRIS team is one that spreads
10 across country. In fact, there's 19 different
11 districts involved, well over a hundred different
12 personnel with various backgrounds. I might add that
13 many of the folks in the Chicago District live along
14 Lake Michigan and they have the same amount of
15 passion as each and every one of you do to prevent,
16 you know, the aquatic transfer and to prevent the
17 rise of Asian carp into Lake Michigan.

18 This report's unique in comparison to
19 other most Corps of Engineer reports in that it
20 identifies a range of options and is adaptable for
21 the incorporation of future technologies. For
22 example, many of the nonstructural measures outlined
23 in the GLMRIS report could be implemented immediately
24 by various federal, state and local agencies subject
25 to applicable authorities and the availability of

1 resources.

2 Apart from GLMRIS the Corps will
3 continue to address the issues of invasive species by
4 participating in the Asian Carp Regional Board --
5 Coordinating Committee, which John runs, operating
6 the existing barriers, which John had just mentioned,
7 and participating in the research and extensive
8 monitoring of the waterways with our various federal
9 and state partners.

10 The prevention and the spread of aquatic
11 nuisance species is, what you will hear tonight, a
12 shared responsibility among federal, state and local
13 agencies, as well as the public. The Corps remains
14 dedicated to working alongside our partners moving
15 forward as our authorities allow.

16 So I put a few numbers in here I'd like
17 to mention. The GLMRIS report, since the 6th of
18 January, has been transmitted to well over 7,000 news
19 and media stations. So the information's getting out
20 there and we are receiving some very good input back.

21 The executive summary that most of you
22 have, it's a small little summary, 25 pages long,
23 it's sort of what I call a primary -- a primer. You
24 know, it will get you going, and then you're going to
25 want to open up the website and go to a -- the next

1 step, which is the report itself, 232 pages of more
2 detail. And then along with that report there's 14
3 appendices, and many of you -- of you in here will be
4 interested in the appendices as well, and they run --
5 range roughly about 10,000 pages, so a whole lot of
6 information out there. But, you know, the early
7 going report is that it's -- it's good reading,
8 especially 25 pages and the 232. So please take a
9 hard look at this book, and you will hear later on
10 that we have several avenues that you can take to
11 provide us information.

12 You're going to hear the interbasin
13 spread of 13 aquatic nuisance species, we call them
14 (inaudible). You're also going to hear the eight
15 potential alternatives in the back of the room that's
16 laid out on the banners. If you have time, please
17 take a look at it, it explains it very well.
18 Ninety different technologies were looked at to
19 prevent the ANS transfer. And then most of this, you
20 know, is very much focused tonight on the CAWS, which
21 is located in Chicago.

22 So, you know, my goal here tonight is to
23 listen. You know, I'm accompanied by Dave
24 Wethington, he is going to get up here and he is
25 going to talk to you about 18 slides to give you

1 another quick look at the enormity and the very
2 complex nature of this feasibility which we had
3 undertaken. So without further delay, what I'd like
4 to do is introduce Dave Wethington.

5 Dave.

6 MR. WETHINGTON: Well, thank you, sir,
7 and thank you all tonight for coming out and
8 participating in this public meeting. It's really
9 great to see so many faces here tonight and I see we
10 have more coming in as we speak. So we look forward
11 to listening to all of your comments.

12 As Colonel Drummond introduced, I just
13 want to spend a few minutes talking a little bit
14 about what we did in GLMRIS, how we came up with the
15 range of alternatives that we presented within the
16 report, and I hope that everyone has had the
17 opportunity to grab one of those books, if not, there
18 are more copies outside. That 25-page book is really
19 an excellent way for you to kind of follow along with
20 the presentation today.

21 We set out at the beginning of the study
22 to identify a range of options and technologies that
23 are available to prevent the transfer of aquatic
24 nuisance species between the Great Lakes and
25 Mississippi River Basin. That aquatic boundary, that

1 watershed line is identified for you on the slide
2 behind me. That line is this brown line, it spans
3 from Minnesota to New York, and it spans over 1,500
4 miles of potential pathways.

5 The goals of our study were twofold.
6 They were to prevent the transfer of aquatic nuisance
7 species, while look at what kind of potential impacts
8 we may have to existing uses and users of the system
9 -- of the Chicago Area Waterway System if we were to
10 implement one or more of these alternatives.

11 Stakeholder engagement has been a very
12 important piece of this study and it's the reason why
13 we're here tonight. Since its inception back when I
14 started as a project manager, in about midyear of
15 2009 is when we first received funding, all the way
16 through today and looking out into the future,
17 stakeholder engagement is a key part of the GLMRIS
18 process.

19 We received legislation in 2012 which
20 asked us to do a couple things. Number one, it
21 expedited the completion of the GLMRIS report to a
22 duration of 18 months. We received this legislation
23 on July 6th of 2012, and 18 months later on January
24 6th of 2014, we completed this report.

25 This legislation asked us also to look

1 at a little bit more specifically the Chicago Area
2 Waterway System. Mr. Goss and Colonel Drummond
3 mentioned in brief that there are other aquatic
4 pathways along that basin divide behind me. Now
5 there are 18 of them, and we have a lot of great
6 information on our website that Kendall gave out at
7 the beginning at GLMRIS.anl.gov. There are
8 individual pathway reports on each of those 18 sites,
9 as well as a couple of different aquatic species
10 control reports on some of the -- the sites that
11 (inaudible) further to this date.

12 What I'm going to spend time talking
13 about today is primarily the Chicago Area Waterway
14 System. The CAWS, as we call it for short, is a
15 complex waterway. I think the -- what the team did
16 is look at the existing uses of the Chicago Area
17 Waterway System in trying to identify the range of
18 alternatives and the impacts that those alternatives
19 may have to these uses.

20 As you can see behind me, navigation,
21 commercial cargo navigation, recreation, those are
22 significant uses of the system. Water supply and
23 conveyance, for those of you who aren't from the
24 Chicagoland area, you probably would be surprised to
25 learn that about 65 to 85 percent of the total volume

1 of the Chicago River on any given day is municipally
2 treated wastewater. So the Chicago Area Waterway
3 System acts as a conveyance stream for municipally
4 treated wastewater to move down away from the city.

5 It also serves -- the CAWS itself serves
6 as a significant flood-risk management tool for the
7 Chicago area -- for the Chicago area for those 9.1,
8 9.2 million residents that live within the city
9 proper, as well as the extending suburbs.

10 The Chicago Area Waterway System,
11 currently water flows in from Lake Michigan down
12 through the system away from the lake. When we have
13 significant precipitation events in the Chicago area,
14 we have the ability to move water in both directions,
15 both out towards the lake and both downstream in
16 order to relieve that significant flood pressure
17 which would build up on the industries and the
18 businesses of the downtown area, as well as the
19 adjacent suburbs.

20 The Chicago Area Waterway System serves
21 as the primary connection between the two basins. We
22 mentioned the other aquatic pathways, those 18 other
23 potential connections, but when you look at this
24 connection that is highly utilized, it is there 24
25 hours a day, seven days a week, and it is a very

1 complex primarily pathway for aquatic nuisance
2 species, that's why our focus of the report was on
3 the Chicago Area Waterway System.

4 The report itself is really best used as
5 a tool for decision-making. It -- it's a great
6 report and it has a lot of information. I'll speak
7 near the conclusion of my discussion with regard to
8 the evaluation criteria in the report, but what we
9 have done is come up with a conceptual level of
10 design of that range of different alternatives which
11 could be applied to -- with the goal to prevent
12 aquatic nuisance species transfer.

13 We also identify, to a conceptual level
14 of design, what kind of mitigation would be
15 necessary, what kind of compensation for adverse
16 impacts to navigation, to flood-risk management, to
17 water quality and water conveyance would be necessary
18 with the implementation of any one of these
19 alternatives.

20 We've also looked at costs. We used
21 traditional Corps of Engineers cost estimating
22 techniques to come up with the range of costs that
23 would be applicable with each alternative. Now, we
24 haven't done it to the nth degree that would, for
25 example, be used for congressional authorization;

1 however, what we have done is done a comprehensive
2 job at ensuring that we can look at the costs for
3 each one of those on kind of a conservative level and
4 be able to use them to compare among the
5 alternatives. So we can look and see if one -- one
6 -- one particular alternative is X amount of dollars
7 and compare that to the cost of another.

8 For any single one of these alternatives
9 there would be additional work that would be required
10 to move on to a construction phase. We -- within our
11 expedited timeline, we were able to come up with that
12 conceptual level of design and we feel we've done an
13 excellent job. We want to present this information
14 to help further the conversation to get the ideas out
15 there. Hydraulic separation, application of
16 different technologies, the -- the implementation of
17 nonstructural measures, these all have certain
18 trade-offs, certain benefits. So we wanted to get
19 this information to all of you, to federal and state
20 resource agencies, to the decision-makers out there
21 for further analysis and further consideration.

22 When we look at how to break down
23 GLMRIS, it was a very complex study, but it was
24 really three basic steps that we took. We identified
25 the connections: What are the interbasin connections

1 between Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin?

2 Here we focused on the Chicago Area Waterway System.

3 We then looked at: What are the species
4 of concern? Colonel Drummond mentioned 13. Well,
5 actually we started out with over 200 species we
6 looked at, refined that list down to 35 of potential
7 concern, which are also listed on our website, and
8 performed a risk assessment and looked at, you know,
9 quantity -- I'm sorry, qualitatively whether they are
10 a high, medium or low risk.

11 We also then looked at a range of
12 available controls. Colonel Drummond mentioned we
13 had over 90 different controls which are identified
14 ranging from physical barriers, to application of
15 aquatic herbicides, to ideas of like freezing or
16 boiling the canal, and we took all of this
17 information and really whittled it down to what are
18 the most appropriate, most implementable available
19 controls that could be implemented with regard to
20 these species of concern.

21 We took all this information, the
22 information about the pathways, about the species and
23 about the controls, as well as background
24 information, including economic, environmental and
25 another data, and put it together to come up with the

1 alternatives that we have in the report.

2 Before I get into the alternatives
3 themselves, I want to talk a little about the
4 technologies that we implemented, that we -- that we
5 utilized within our report. Some of them you may be
6 quite familiar. The concept of a physical barrier, a
7 physical solution, whether it's a dam or a sheetpile
8 wall or a mound of stones in a waterway to prevent
9 the interbasin transfer of untreated surface waters,
10 concepts like that are pretty similar -- or pretty
11 simple.

12 Electric barriers, that's something that
13 we've used currently, but in the report we've
14 expanded on the idea, come up with additional
15 information based on lessons learned and combined
16 traditional electric barriers with something like an
17 engineered channel where we can construct a
18 purpose-built navigation channel at a certain depth
19 with certain perhaps inflative properties or
20 conductive properties that would help better focus
21 and tune the electric barriers within those -- those
22 canals.

23 We've also come up with more novel ideas
24 such as those -- the GLMRIS lock or the aquatic
25 nuisance species treatment plant. The GLMRIS lock

1 very simply is a flushing lock that would exchange
2 water from -- from inside the lock with clean water
3 that has been treated by aquatic nuisance species
4 treatment plants. And so we use combinations of some
5 or all of these controls behind me to recommend a --
6 to recommend a variety of different alternatives.

7 So I'm going to start with Alternative
8 1 -- you can kind of follow along the lower left-hand
9 corner down here, I'm on Alternative Plan 1, and in
10 your books feel free to flip to Alternative Plan 1,
11 and at the conclusion we'll certainly look forward to
12 any of your questions about any of these
13 alternatives, as well as your comments.

14 So Alternative Plan 1 is the baseline
15 condition, it's what we call traditionally the no new
16 federal action, but as opposed to no new federal
17 action, I'd much prefer the sustained activities
18 alternative.

19 No new federal action implies that
20 nothing is being done currently with regard to
21 aquatic nuisance species, and that is certainly not
22 the case. There is a great amount of work being done
23 at the state level, at the federal level at combating
24 a range of aquatic nuisance species, as well as the
25 work that is being accomplished by the Corps of

1 Engineers, specifically with regard to Asian carp,
2 construction and operation of existing and new
3 barrier systems.

4 We also look at the range of other
5 activities that is sponsored by the Great Lakes
6 Restoration Initiative and other funding mechanisms.
7 This baseline alternative serves as a measuring
8 stick, a yardstick with which to compare other
9 alternatives in the additional risk reduction, the
10 additional benefits gained in trying to achieve that
11 prevention as compared to what we are currently doing
12 today.

13 Alternative 2 are nonstructural
14 alternatives. So these are any type of alternatives
15 that could be implemented, that could be promulgated
16 without building a physical structure. Some examples
17 are behind me: Active management, ideas like fishing
18 down populations of invasive carp or applying aquatic
19 herbicides to individual plant species that could be
20 isolated and located in certain areas such that we
21 prevent the transfer before they even make it to the
22 basin divide.

23 Other activity such as public education
24 or the promulgation of new laws and regulations are
25 all good ideas. I would stand here and argue that

1 it's an excellent idea to inform the public that
2 maybe dumping bait buckets over the side of your boat
3 is a bad idea or that cleaning your boat once you
4 pull it out of the water before putting it into
5 another adjacent waterway is certainly a best
6 management practice.

7 So since each of these nonstructural
8 methods are best management practices, we have
9 conveyed them, we have implemented them as elements
10 of each of the following alternatives. Now, I won't
11 stand here today and tell you that each one of these
12 nonstructural measures are going to certainly prevent
13 the transfers. In fact, they're most effective at
14 delaying transfer of species, specifically aquatic
15 plants, fish, et cetera; however, again, as I
16 mentioned, they are best management practices, so we
17 do include them as elements of each of the following
18 alternatives.

19 Alternative Number 3 is the first of our
20 two strictly technology-based alternatives. I know
21 we've got some maps and some figures up here that may
22 be a little bit harder to see for those of you in
23 back, but these are similar diagrams as to the
24 banners which are behind you. So after the
25 presentation and the comments today, feel free to

1 spend a little more time with them and get to know
2 them a little bit better.

3 The flow bypass alternative takes the
4 technology concept and looks at applying the
5 prevention of the transfer of species at a single
6 choke point -- in this case, actually, two single
7 choke points. So we're trying to stop the
8 bidirectional flow of species at a point here and a
9 point here. These two points take up the entire --
10 I'm sorry, they account for the -- the entire flow of
11 the system.

12 The concept for the flow bypass, as the
13 name suggests, is that we treat the water that's
14 coming down this canal through an aquatic nuisance
15 species treatment plant. Water would flow, as it
16 currently does today, from the Lake Michigan basin
17 down through this aquatic nuisance species treatment
18 plant, and out.

19 Now, the aquatic nuisance species
20 treatment plant is not a -- like a traditional
21 wastewater treatment plant where you're trying to
22 take contaminants out of the water, it is
23 specifically addressing species of concern. It's
24 based, however, on traditional water purification,
25 water treatment practices, and uses a combination of

1 screens, filters and UV light to inactivate any
2 species that come through the plant or come through
3 the system.

4 In order to maintain navigation, we
5 apply this GLMRIS flushing lock concept, bookended by
6 a pair of electric barriers, to allow vessels to
7 continue to transfer at each of those points.

8 Now, the size of these aquatic nuisance
9 species treatment plants are really one of the
10 drivers for this entire -- this entire alternative.
11 When we have significant precipitation events in the
12 Chicagoland area, you're going to see a significant
13 increase in the flow of water down the stream such as
14 orders of magnitude, such that the treatment plants
15 would maybe need to be 20 or 50 times larger than
16 they would be on a normal everyday basis.

17 Instead of building all that
18 infrastructure and having it sit to quite literally
19 rust, we instead chose to capture and hold that
20 excess precipitation, that excess flood-risk water in
21 a series of tunnels and reservoirs that would
22 alleviate any sort of flood risk for the existing
23 residents of the Chicagoland area.

24 Now, the cost associated with this
25 particular alternative at an estimated cost of about

1 15 and a half billion dollars is very significantly
2 associated with those mitigation needs, that need to
3 offset a flood risk for the residents of the City of
4 Chicago and surrounding suburbs.

5 The second of the two technology
6 alternatives takes the idea of species prevention,
7 instead of having two bidirectional points, so two
8 kind of two-way checkpoints, we've taken them and
9 split them so that you introduce one-way checkpoints
10 along or adjacent to the shores of Lake Michigan and
11 a second one-way checkpoints down at the bottom of
12 the system, we call this the Brandon Road checkpoint.

13 So each of those checkpoints along the
14 lake or adjacent to the lake are responsible for
15 preventing the one-way transfer of species that
16 currently exists in Lake Michigan into the system.
17 This Brandon Road checkpoint prevents species
18 currently down in the Mississippi River Basin down
19 here from moving up into the Chicago Area Waterway
20 System.

21 So what we've created that's highlighted
22 in white along the waterway there is what we call the
23 buffer zone, hence where we get the buffer zone
24 concept, and the idea is that this buffer zone is an
25 aquatic nuisance species controlled zone.

1 Currently we do not believe that there
2 are any aquatic nuisance species of concern within
3 this buffer zone. So if we can maintain these
4 one-way barriers to ensure that none get in there, we
5 can continue to operate the buffer zone area, monitor
6 it to ensure that there's not passage of species, and
7 operate the systems, including water conveyance and
8 flood-risk management, the same way we do today.

9 If, for example, we have a significant
10 precipitation event somewhere in the City of Chicago
11 or adjacent suburbs and you need to move water in
12 both directions, you still can because the water in
13 that buffer zone does not contain aquatic nuisance
14 species and the water introduced is precipitation.
15 So it's just taking rain water, it's not moving
16 aquatic nuisance species or ANS, into either of the
17 basins.

18 Because you don't need as significant of
19 flood-risk management infrastructure -- and we do
20 need some because we choose to put two physical
21 barriers at the lower parts of the system, and the
22 reason for that is because the two channels which
23 those physical barriers would block are primarily
24 nonnavigable and aren't highly utilized, they -- we
25 would construct flood-risk management infrastructure

1 in the -- including tunnels and reservoirs except at
2 a much smaller scale. And so because of that smaller
3 scale the time to complete is much shorter, about ten
4 years, and the cost is also significantly less.

5 I will note something with regard to
6 this particular alternative, that there are
7 opportunities for early risk reduction. If you are
8 interested, for example, in only preventing species
9 or controlling species coming from the Mississippi
10 River Basin towards the lakes, this is the only
11 particular ANS control that you would need to
12 implement to control those species.

13 Obviously our intent was to prevent
14 transfer in either direction, but -- so we have also
15 recommended the remainder of these potential control
16 points.

17 The next alternative, Alternative Plan
18 Number 5, is the first of two hydrologic separation
19 alternatives. This one is the lakefront hydrologic
20 separation because we've placed physical barriers
21 along or adjacent to the lakefront along Lake
22 Michigan.

23 There would be significant flood risk
24 associated with the construction of these physical
25 barriers because we are no longer allowed to move

1 water in both directions during significant
2 precipitation events. So having physical barriers at
3 these points doesn't allow water to come out;
4 otherwise, you will be kind of undoing the whole
5 purpose of the physical barrier, which is preventing
6 surface water from mixing. So we again have to
7 capture and store until we can obviously
8 appropriately continue to discharge the significant
9 precipitation events, which again leads to
10 significant costs.

11 So with regard to lakefront separations,
12 the large cost of mitigation is specifically for
13 flood-risk management. So the team analyzed this and
14 thought: "Where could we put barriers that will
15 alleviate the significant risk management costs?"

16 We've seen it in the flow bypass, now we
17 see it here again with the lakefront. So we came up
18 with the idea of the mid-system hydrologic
19 separation. The mid-system hydrologic separation
20 places barriers at points in the middle of the system
21 where approximately the hydrologic divide used to be
22 back in the, you know, mid to late 1800s.

23 Now, Chicago is a very flat region, so
24 there wasn't, by any means, any type of a mountainous
25 or continental divide, it's a very flat and marshy

1 system, but this is approximately where we had that
2 high point.

3 Now, in this case, we've very
4 successfully been able to alleviate any kind of flood
5 risk impacts. The necessary reservoirs and tunnels
6 would be very small in comparison to the other
7 alternatives; however, the mitigation for this is
8 because now all of a sudden we've opened up a large
9 portion of the Chicago River and existing
10 infrastructure such as water reclamation plant
11 outfalls, combined sewer outfalls and existing
12 contaminated sediments directly to Lake Michigan.

13 So everything that is to the lakeside of
14 this barrier or this barrier down here would need to
15 be mitigated for appropriately. What we've chosen to
16 do in this particular scenario is to reroute the
17 effluent discharge from water reclamation plants to
18 points downstream of the barriers. That's what those
19 green tunnels -- the green line indicate is cap -- is
20 essentially rerouting water reclamation plant
21 discharges to points downstream of the barrier.

22 We did that for two reasons: Number
23 one, we could potentially clean them up to an extreme
24 level, make the water so clean that we could put it
25 back into Lake Michigan. Well, the total cost of

1 doing that and the annual operation and maintenance
2 costs of doing that would be very significant.

3 Number two, you'd be taking a
4 significant flow of water on the order of 600, 700
5 million gallons per day and removing it from the
6 Illinois Waterway System and the Mississippi River
7 System. As one of the Corps' missions is navigation,
8 removing a significant percentage of that water,
9 approximately 40 percent of the total water that
10 comes downstream, would have a significant impact on
11 navigation.

12 Now, some of you may say, "Well, why
13 don't you just clean it up like the rest of the" --
14 "the Great Lakes discharges do, cities like Milwaukee
15 or Detroit, clean it up to that level, because
16 Chicago's been very dirty in the past?"

17 Well, in the past perhaps that's the
18 case, but today -- and with the -- the new impending
19 advances on water reclamation plant discharges that
20 are anticipated within this timeline, we would still
21 have a significant load of pollutants to Lake
22 Michigan. Even cleaning to the same levels as other
23 cities that discharge to the Great Lakes would add a
24 significant load, a total amount of contaminants that
25 currently does not go anywhere near Lake Michigan.

1 And so that's kind of why we decided to instead
2 reroute that is to protect that significant natural
3 resource.

4 We also include elements of sediment
5 remediation and capture and conveyance of combined
6 sewer outfalls for this particular alternative to
7 mitigate for those adverse impacts to Lake Michigan,
8 the significant natural resource. Hence we have the
9 timeline of about 25 years and cost of about \$15.5
10 billion.

11 The last two alternatives are basically
12 combinations of physical separation and technologies.
13 You may have kind of caught on to it over the past
14 couple slides, but you can really break up the
15 Chicago Area Waterway System into a upper part and
16 lower part depending on where you put a barrier.

17 So as the name suggests, this particular
18 hybrid puts a physical barrier on the Chicago
19 Sanitary and Ship Canal and leaves the Cal-Sag
20 Channel open. The next hybrid alternative we put the
21 physical barrier on the Cal-Sag Channel while leaving
22 the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal open.

23 So you're basically switching out and
24 applying a barrier on one of the systems to try and
25 buy down as much risk as possible, while leaving the

1 other one open to existing uses like navigation, like
2 water conveyance and like flood-risk management.

3 I'll go back for a second to the
4 previous Cal-Sag open, and you will see that the cost
5 there is approximately \$15.1 billion while the cost
6 of the CSSC open one is about half that, and that's
7 primarily because of that need for mitigation.

8 I mentioned at the outset that the kind
9 of the beauty of the report is that it provides
10 information for decision-makers -- decision-makers
11 like elected officials, like federal and state
12 resource agencies, like members of the public just as
13 yourselves, and really what we've done is try and
14 capture this information and discuss it in sufficient
15 detail for each one of these alternatives so that the
16 conversation can continue so we can look at: What
17 are the tradeoffs, what are the benefits of any one
18 of these alternatives compared to what are the costs,
19 and we understand that costs will be perceived
20 different depending where your interests lie. So we
21 present evaluation criteria and summarize it in
22 tables within the report to help facilitate that
23 decision-making.

24 Before I conclude today, there are a
25 couple of things I want to make sure that everyone

1 kind -- we have a mutual understanding of. You
2 probably have gathered it from my description of the
3 different alternatives, but mitigation, making up for
4 those adverse impacts through existing uses like
5 flood-risk management, like water quality, are the
6 significant costs and significant drivers for the
7 timeline and the resources that are necessary to
8 implement any one of these alternatives.

9 I'm not going to stand here today and
10 tell you it's going to take me or our organization 25
11 years to build a dam in the channel. What I will say
12 is that it will take approximately that time and
13 approximately that cost to ensure that we don't have
14 adverse impacts to the residents of the Chicagoland
15 area and induced flooding or have adverse impacts to
16 our significant natural resources in the Great Lakes.

17 No matter what, with any one of these
18 alternatives there will be residual risks, there will
19 be risks of aquatic nuisance species transferring
20 between the basins outside the aquatic pathway. Our
21 focus in this report and our focus in all of these
22 efforts is specifically on the aquatic pathway.
23 There are ways -- human-mediated transport, I
24 mentioned bait buckets, avian transport, animal,
25 birds, et cetera, transporting species inadvertently

1 between the basins which will still exist.

2 There's also the very real expectation
3 or probability that it may take too long to construct
4 one of these before one of the species of concern
5 moves between the basins. So that's why we want to
6 look at a -- kind of a combined what kind of interim
7 steps can taken -- what kind of nonstructural
8 measures and what kind of interim steps can be taken
9 to mitigate that risk if we want to go toward a
10 long-term goal of total separation between the
11 basins. It's part of why we had this conversation.

12 With regard to any of the alternatives
13 within the report, we do look at adaptive management.
14 I mentioned the one alternative where you could
15 achieve risk reduction sooner if you're looking at
16 just prevention or trying to control species from one
17 basin just in one direction such as from the
18 Mississippi River Basin up to the Great Lakes.

19 If I leave you with nothing else
20 tonight, I'd like to impart the understanding that
21 aquatic nuisance species control is a shared
22 responsibility. I believe the Corps of Engineers has
23 done an excellent job in providing information for
24 decision-makers, but any single one of these
25 alternatives, whether it's nonstructural measures or

1 a full physical separation, will require significant
2 resources and significant investments and significant
3 consensus among a variety of different stakeholders,
4 including yourselves.

5 So your continued engagement in this is
6 very important. This is why we're doing these public
7 meetings. We're hosting these at several different
8 cities around the region. Today I believe we've
9 announced we're actually adding two additional
10 meetings. We're going to be adding an additional
11 meeting in Erie, Pennsylvania, to kind of further --
12 go a little bit further east to ensure that we have
13 as many stakeholders from the New York and
14 Pennsylvania area as we can, as well as go all the
15 way down to New Orleans to ensure that we -- we hear
16 the voice of our navigation stakeholders who've asked
17 us to come down to -- to that region.

18 Your engagement, your input through the
19 website, through your comments today are very
20 important to us and so we look forward to hearing
21 your comments.

22 By all means, please stay in touch with
23 GLMRIS. If you have any questions that you think of
24 after today that we're not able to answer perhaps,
25 feel free to e-mail us, follow us on Facebook and

1 Twitter to stay involved on the latest breaking news
2 and happenings with regard to the study.

3 Thank you so much for you time and we
4 look forward to opening up the public comment period.

5 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thanks, gentlemen.

6 Before beginning the oral comment
7 period, I'd just like to reiterate that the GLMRIS
8 report in its entirety can be viewed and downloaded
9 on the GLMRIS website and you can see the address up
10 here.

11 So now we're going to move into the oral
12 comment period of tonight's meeting. So those who
13 indicated on-line or through the yellow comment
14 registration form today that they'd like to make a
15 three-minute statement or ask a question will now
16 have the opportunity to do so.

17 So if a person wants to ask a question,
18 we request that you manage your three minutes to
19 allow for your question, any comments, and then the
20 Corps of Engineers or panel response. So the Corps
21 of Engineers is going to answer whichever -- the
22 questions that they are able to today.

23 So, as you can see, many people have
24 joined us tonight, and to be respectful of each
25 other's time and to give everybody the opportunity to

1 speak, we're going to ask you to keep to that
2 three-minute timeline.

3 So after everyone has had an opportunity
4 to address the panel and if time permits, those who
5 have additional comments or questions will be given
6 the opportunity to speak again. We'll open it up for
7 second comments.

8 So -- and if time does not allow, please
9 note that you could enter your remaining comments on
10 the GLMRIS website, mail them to the Corps of
11 Engineers, or write them on those yellow forms and
12 hand them in today. I'd like to state that, you
13 know, we're not weighting comments given to us in one
14 form over another. So if you don't get a chance to
15 speak today, that doesn't mean your comment won't be
16 held as -- equally as comments sent in on the
17 website.

18 So I've got a visual set of slides
19 that's going to help manage our time here tonight
20 during this oral comment period. So, as you can see,
21 we're going to start out with a green slide when you
22 come up to speak, and then after two minutes it's
23 going to change to a yellow slide, and then every 15
24 seconds after that it's going to update you on your
25 time that you have remaining. And then when it gets

1 to the 30 seconds, I'm going to remind you that you
2 have 30 seconds left, and then when it gets -- when
3 it turns red, I'm going to ask you that, you know,
4 you should quit your statement.

5 So I mentioned earlier that we have a
6 stenographer with us tonight, she's going to be
7 reporting your comments so that we make sure that we
8 capture everything as best as we can. So we have two
9 microphones here, one on either side of the aisles,
10 come to whichever one's convenient to you when I call
11 your name.

12 When you come to the microphone, though,
13 I ask that you first give your name, any organization
14 that you might represent, and then speak your ZIP
15 code. So when you come to the microphone, please say
16 those things slowly. If you do not give your name
17 and ZIP code, we won't be able to formally record
18 your comment in our comment period, so I just want to
19 let you know that. After you give your name and ZIP
20 code, that's when I'm going to start the timer, so to
21 speak.

22 So first we're going to hear from those
23 that preregistered on the project website and those
24 that indicated on the their registration form that
25 they wanted to make an oral comment. So for those of

1 you that preregistered on the website, you should
2 have been given a blue index card, I'll call those
3 names in order and ask you to kind of queue up, and
4 those who registered to speak today, you should have
5 been given a yellow index card. And after hearing
6 the presentation, if you decided that you wanted to
7 make a comment and haven't signed up, you can go back
8 out to the welcome table and we'll get your
9 information and make sure that we accurately record
10 who are you.

11 So I apologize in advance if I
12 mispronounce any of your names, that's one of the
13 reasons that we ask you to give them when you come up
14 here. So at this time --

15 MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible) get a yellow
16 card, are we supposed to go out and get one or --

17 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Yes, if you -- if you
18 haven't done that.

19 MALE SPEAKER: Well, I've registered,
20 they didn't give me a card.

21 MR. ZABOROWSKI: They didn't give you a
22 card or they didn't -- well, let's -- if -- I'll call
23 your name, and if that didn't happen, we'll just ask
24 for you to come up to the microphone, give your name
25 and ZIP code, and we'll -- we'll record it that way.

1 All right. So at this point in time the
2 Attorney General for Ohio, Mr. Mike DeWine, indicated
3 that he'd like to make a comment.

4 So same rules apply, sir, if you would
5 give your name.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL DeWINE: My name is
7 Mike DeWine, I'm the Attorney General of the State of
8 Ohio. I want to thank the Army Corps for coming
9 here, we appreciate them allowing me to speak even
10 though I'm one of the attorney generals (inaudible) I
11 can sue you all over this issue, but we love having
12 you here.

13 As I look around this -- first, let me
14 say I have a written statement which I'll just make
15 part of the record and save time.

16 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL DeWINE: As I look
18 around this room, I see many people who have been
19 involved in our battle to preserve Lake Erie and the
20 Great Lakes.

21 When I was in the United States Senate,
22 we put together a bipartisan group and -- of all the
23 Great Lakes states and, I think, really made a lot of
24 great progress.

25 I think we've come a long, long way, but

1 I just want to be -- if I can, I come to this meeting
2 with a great deal of frustration. I went back and
3 looked at some of the statements I made in the
4 Senate. Back in -- in 2005, 2006 we were warning
5 about the Asian carp and the other problems. While
6 some things have been done, quite frankly, I don't
7 think there's been a sense of urgency, and what I
8 hope, after this very comprehensive study that has
9 been done, is that you and all decision-makers in --
10 in this regard develop a real sense of urgency,
11 because I will tell you as I travel around Ohio,
12 people really get, they understand the importance of
13 the Great Lakes.

14 Sometimes we think it's only the
15 fishermen, it's only the people that come to Lake
16 Erie every year from all over Ohio, all over the
17 country to fish, or people like to boat, but it's
18 amazing to me how the average person who doesn't do
19 either one of those really understands the importance
20 of -- of the Great Lakes.

21 So my one message is urgency. Some of
22 us feel, as we looked at the different alternatives,
23 that nothing, frankly, is going to work other than a
24 complete separation. Whether that is what you end up
25 and whether the decision-makers make that decision,

1 we will -- we will see, but whatever you do, we hope
2 you move very, very quickly.

3 People of this state really do
4 understand the economic importance. We do not want
5 to be in a position where we no longer have sport
6 fishing in the Great Lakes, fishing really of any
7 kind, and that may sound like a -- a horrible
8 scenario, but we've seen this Asian carp progress and
9 progress, we don't believe, quite frankly, most
10 people I talked to, that the current methods are
11 going to do it or are doing it and we need something
12 done.

13 So please, after you get through these
14 hearings -- we appreciate you doing the hearings --
15 please move forward, give us a specific alternative,
16 and then let's move and we all get behind an
17 alternative. Thank you very much.

18 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir. And,
19 actually, can I get a ZIP code for the formal record?

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL DeWINE: I have a
21 written statement, so I'm going to hand you it.

22 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Not too painful, right?

23 Okay. So next -- is Congresswoman Marcy
24 Kaptur here yet?

25 No? Okay.

1 So next on those that preregistered, I
2 believe Mr. Bill Ginn and John Stark indicated that
3 they'd like to make a joint statement. After them I
4 have Kristy Meyer and then Walter Dean Dabson after
5 that -- after that -- after that.

6 So, gentlemen, again, when you come, can
7 you please identify yourselves, an organization and
8 then ZIP code, and then we'll start your time.

9 MR. GINN: I'm Bill Ginn, and ZIP code
10 is 44026.

11 MR. STARK: And I'm John Stark, and my
12 ZIP code is 43017, and I represent -- well, we
13 represent The Nature Conservancy in Ohio.

14 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

15 Please begin. Sorry.

16 MR. GINN: Start?

17 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Yes.

18 MR. GINN: As I indicated, my name is
19 Bill Ginn and I'm a lawyer by trade, although long
20 retired, and in my 50 years of practice -- plus years
21 of practice I represented largely construction
22 companies, engineering companies, architects in their
23 multiple problems of building infrastructure and
24 dealing with all the issues that -- that were
25 presented.

1 I appeared at the beginning of this
2 session back about three years ago when our --
3 Mr. Goss came to Cleveland, and I didn't register, I
4 didn't know it was happening until that day, and I
5 asked to speak at the end and they very kindly let me
6 do that.

7 I was there because I was struck as a
8 citizen that this monstrous threat of the Asian carp
9 needed to be addressed effectively and soon, and
10 today I'm privileged to address that issue on behalf
11 of The Nature Conservancy.

12 Our statement, which we will file as a
13 part of the record, details adequately The Nature
14 Conservancy: A worldwide, nonpartisan,
15 science-oriented organization with a mission of
16 preserving the lands and waters on which all life
17 depends.

18 Now, first we are pleased that the
19 report itself is comprehensive in its scope. We at
20 The Nature Conservancy are all in favor of a solution
21 that addresses all invasive species in the two
22 watersheds and considers it as a two-way street
23 rather than just as a one-way issue. But since a
24 good chunk of my 90 years has been spent,
25 unfortunately, at this time in dealing with Asian

1 carp, that's the focus of my remarks. None of us
2 would be here today if it wasn't for the Asian carp.

3 Also, you rightly dealt with the
4 multiple stakeholders that are affected by what we
5 do. Any comprehensive solution has to respect and
6 deal with the interest of those stakeholders, it's
7 part of your report to do that, and we commend you
8 for that.

9 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

10 MR. GINN: Specifically there are
11 certain fundamentals we believe must be sorted out.
12 First is that hydrological separation is for us the
13 only sensible effective goal in thwarting the
14 invasive species that we know as the Asian carp. We
15 can't allow that to happen, particularly, we in Lake
16 Erie where it's warm sometimes and most vulnerable
17 habitat suitable for Asian carp and we have the most
18 here on Lake Erie to lose.

19 But you've pointed that out at least in
20 the form --

21 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sir, if I could ask you
22 to conclude your statements, please.

23 MR. GINN: -- in the form of two options
24 to achieve the goal, and we -- we -- which we
25 appreciate the price tags that you've put on it. If

1 that happens to be the investment that we have to
2 make, that investment is well worth it, because the
3 price of failure is simply too great for any of us to
4 bear in Lake Erie and on the Great Lakes.

5 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

6 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Kendall, just start
7 the time clock over.

8 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Okay. So, yeah,
9 Mr. Stark, if you could just again state your name,
10 ZIP code and organization.

11 MR. STARK: My name is John Stark, I
12 represent The Nature Conservancy in Ohio, I'm the
13 freshwater conservation director here with them, and
14 ZIP code is 43017.

15 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

16 MR. STARK: I also have a written
17 statement I'll hand you at the end of this.

18 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

19 MR. STARK: (Inaudible) getting some
20 kind of feedback.

21 As we have talked about, it's in the
22 national interest to invest the needed resources at
23 key locations and in the most effective manner to
24 prevent the introduction and spread of Asian carp and
25 more than a dozen other highly damaging aquatic

1 invasive species that would otherwise be able to
2 travel across these massive freshwater systems
3 spanning 32 states and 2 provinces.

4 So I'm going to summarize very quickly,
5 given the lack of time that we have. Some of the
6 things that we need to think about with GLMRIS is the
7 cost of doing nothing is not zero, but it's rather
8 snowballing losses and ecological destruction.
9 Unchecked these invaders will spread and impose
10 economic and recreational losses that would mount up
11 year after year.

12 It has cost businesses and consumers in
13 the Great Lakes region hundreds of millions of
14 dollars annually in direct costs and even more from
15 indirect costs related to the removal, maintenance
16 and management of these species.

17 The sport and commercial fisheries which
18 could be devastated by Asian carp and other invasives
19 is valued at over \$7 billion each year. In this
20 context, the cost of the containment through
21 ecological separation are imperative to prevent
22 greater damage.

23 The Chicago Area Waterway System is a
24 two-way highway for AIS. The study limits its
25 assessment to 13 species of current concern, but it

1 is possible in the future that we'll have other AIS
2 species that make their way here as well.

3 Stopping AIS moving in both directions
4 is about protecting two of the world's largest and
5 most important fresh water resources. Any solution
6 to the passage of AIS through CAWS must: A, stop AIS
7 from moving through CAWS in both directions; B, stop
8 all invasives, not only Asian carp; C, must have the
9 highest reliability of containment over the long
10 term, e.g., lowest risk of mechanical, electrical or
11 structural failure, and, D, must be implemented in a
12 timely manner and in concert with effective interim
13 measures to be able to reduce the risk of AIS moving
14 through CAWS.

15 The GLMRIS study demonstrates that there
16 are viable long-term options that would achieve
17 effective separation in both watersheds. In the near
18 term, utilizing the combination of structural and
19 nonstructural methods involved -- identified in the
20 report would provide a measure of interim control.
21 It is clear that there are workable alternatives to
22 two-way control within the report that maintain
23 essential local transportation and economic activity.

24 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

25 MR. STARK: Stakeholder involvement and

1 buy-in from a large region of the country will be
2 essential to reaching the best solution. Thank you.

3 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Stark.

4 Now we have Ms. Kristy Meyer.

5 So I apologize, we're having some
6 feedback problems with some of our microphones.

7 MS. MEYER: I noticed that
8 Representative Kaptur is here, so maybe she wants to
9 go before me.

10 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: You go right
11 ahead (inaudible).

12 MS. MEYER: Okay. I can talk loud, I'm
13 a loud talker. They actually put me in my own
14 office.

15 MR. ZABOROWSKI: I think (inaudible) was
16 trying to hold you back.

17 MS. MEYER: My name is Kristy Meyer and
18 I'm the managing director of agricultural, health and
19 clean water programs at the Ohio Environmental
20 Council and we're based out of 43212.

21 The Ohio Environmental Council's mission
22 is to secure healthy air, land and water for all who
23 call Ohio home, and on behalf of the OEC, I'd like to
24 thank you for holding this meeting tonight. I'd also
25 like to thank everybody that's here.

1 I think it's pretty indicative, as we
2 have heard from Attorney General and also TNC about
3 how important Lake Erie is to Ohio and how important
4 the Great Lakes are to this region, and if the Great
5 Lakes were its own country, it would be the fourth
6 largest GDP in the world.

7 In fact, Lake Erie is vitally important
8 to Ohio, not just to the people that reside in Lake
9 Erie, but to the whole state. Tourism is a \$40
10 billion industry in Ohio and nearly a third of that
11 comes from seven of the counties along the lake. It
12 -- it supplies 1.5 billion in federal, state and
13 local taxes and supports more than 17,000 jobs in
14 Ohio.

15 And as Dave talked about earlier, you
16 know, the legislation that directed this study also
17 directed you guys, as you -- as you pointed out, to
18 prevent aquatic invasive species from getting in
19 either watershed, and the only way that that will
20 happen is if we restore the natural divide.

21 And we need -- as Attorney General
22 DeWine said, we need to move quickly. We need to
23 start with interim steps and put those interim steps
24 into action, and then that will lead to alternately
25 hydrological separation, at the same time we need to

1 -- need to employ those technologies and other
2 measures to keep those invasive species at bay.

3 You know, I agree with John. It's
4 funny, I -- I'm sure you will hear a lot of the same
5 comments, but \$18 billion seems to be a sticker shock
6 for everybody, but it's over a very long time, as
7 well, the cost of not doing something far exceeds the
8 cost of -- you know, of actually restoring the -- the
9 divide.

10 I will be submitting more detailed
11 written comments, but I -- I don't have them with me
12 tonight. I do -- since I have a moment, would like
13 to thank ODNR for the work that they're doing to
14 sever those pathways in Ohio and really appreciate
15 all that work, but thank you and that's all.

16 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you very much.

17 Mr. Dabson, actually, if you wouldn't
18 mind. Congresswoman, would you like to make your
19 statement at this point in time?

20 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: I -- let the
21 people who have been waiting testify. That's okay.
22 Thank you very much.

23 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Okay. All right. So,
24 Mr. Dabson, name, ZIP code, three minutes.

25 MR. DABSON: Right.

1 Dean Dabson, Mentor, Ohio, Lake County,

2 ZIP code 44 --

3 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Dave, could you move
4 up a little closer, please?

5 MR. DABSON: Sorry.

6 Dean Dabson, Mentor, Ohio, Lake County,
7 volunteering as a consultant on -- on carp issues in
8 collaboration with West Michigan Strategic Alliance,
9 ZIP code is 44060. In addition, I collaborated for
10 nine years on a film that was viewed in Toronto and
11 part of it's on environmental issues.

12 The reason I got involved in this in the
13 first place, I've been in the Coast Guard Auxiliary
14 for over 25 years out of Fairport Harbor and have a
15 love of the lake and also the fishing and the -- the
16 local restaurants that deal in perch and walleye.

17 So, basically, what we're looking at is
18 we don't exist in a vacuum. There's a lot of special
19 interests that tie -- you know, tie up these efforts
20 and influence these efforts. So what I -- I did
21 originally was -- I actually was asked by Steven
22 LaTourette's chief of staff to come up with some
23 ideas on -- you know, try to find out where in the
24 world that actually we had some invasive species
25 control that was actually working.

1 So I looked at Canada, the Trent-Severn
2 Waterway System, and they have been able to, excuse
3 me, keep the lamprey eel out of the Trent-Severn for
4 over a hundred years by employing a marine rail
5 system. Now they have a natural barrier there, and
6 rather than put in a traditional lock, they maintain
7 a marine rail system.

8 Now, the problem -- the problem with --
9 with marine rail is it may not handle the type of
10 barge configuration that we have on the CSSC. So if
11 you want to look at my comments on lift systems --
12 marine lift systems -- and it's a bypass so you can
13 maintain the barge traffic at the current level and
14 up to speed, you can look at my report or my comments
15 on GLMRIS RPT 552.

16 Okay. And what that basically is, is
17 that to handle this one tug nine-barge configuration
18 on -- on the CSSC, you build a marine lift adjacent
19 to and open simultaneously with the permanent closing
20 of the traditional lock -- style lock at Lockport
21 which would keep the barges flowing.

22 The closed lock would form the
23 separation in the waters and the lift system loaded
24 with barges, with caissons, stern gate open upon
25 ascending, water rushes out and this would discharge

1 the carp back into the waters immediately below the
2 lift.

3 The results would be --

4 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds,
5 Mr. Dabson.

6 MR. DABSON: Okay. The results would be
7 instantaneously visibly and verifiable, and any
8 remaining carp, invasives on the lift could be
9 flushed or blasted off using water cannons.

10 So this is -- this has worked for the
11 lamprey eel on -- where it's -- you know, this
12 history of the lamprey eel in the Great Lakes,
13 they've used electric barriers, they've used
14 chemicals to try to, you know, take care of the
15 lamprey and -- and that hasn't worked.

16 So I recommend that you contact your
17 congressman and don't accept the argument that, you
18 know, we'll just close it down, because the Supreme
19 Court says you can't close it down.

20 MR. ZABOROWSKI: If you can conclude
21 (inaudible) please.

22 MR. DABSON: That will never happen.
23 Okay. So thank you very much.

24 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Dabson.

25 So next in line we have Joy Mulinex and

1 Kathryn Hanratty and George Goudreau. So if Joy
2 Mulinex can make your way and then the next people
3 are on deck.

4 MS. MULINEX: All right. My name is Joy
5 Mulinex and my ZIP code is 44060. My family and I
6 live outside of Cleveland in Lake County and I work
7 for Western Reserve Land Conservancy. I serve on the
8 board of the Alliance for the Great Lakes and the
9 board of the Cleveland Water Alliance, and I'm a
10 member of EPA's Great Lakes Advisory Board. I've
11 worked on Great Lakes policy for about 15 years and
12 the health of the Great Lakes is very important to
13 me.

14 I'm here today to put a human face on
15 this issue. You've heard a lot about the economic
16 value of Lake Erie to Ohio, but my family and I spend
17 a lot of our time in the summer on the beach here,
18 and my six-year-old daughter and my three-other-old
19 son swim and fish, and I want to make sure that the
20 opportunities that are afforded to me and them right
21 now remain throughout their lives.

22 Preventing Asian carp and other invasive
23 species from invading the Great Lakes is critically
24 important. These species disrupt the food chain and
25 compete with our native fisheries. The Great Lakes

1 has been ground zero for invasive species for far too
2 long and I also stress the sense of urgency to do
3 something now.

4 We've known about Asian carp for quite a
5 while. The GLMRIS was authorized back in 2007. So,
6 again, I'd like to reiterate the need for urgency.

7 If you look at the history of Asian carp
8 in the Mississippi River, they're making up over 90
9 percent of the biomass there. So I'm very concerned
10 that if they invade the Great Lakes and become
11 established then they will most definitely
12 dramatically change our fishing opportunities here.

13 And I certainly appreciate the efforts
14 of the Corps and everyone in the federal agencies and
15 the state agencies who have worked so hard to slow
16 the progression of Asian carp; however, the only real
17 solution is physical separation. Current efforts
18 have certainly slowed the Asian carp, but the Corps'
19 own research shows that these are simply Band-Aid
20 solutions.

21 I also hope that Congress is able to
22 understand the urgency and is able to work with the
23 administration in finding the necessary funding to
24 move forward with a solution. I'm encouraged to hear
25 there may be some steps that can be taken in the near

1 term to continue to slow the progression. I believe
2 that our \$11 billion tourism industry, as well as the
3 opportunities for my --

4 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

5 MS. MULINEX: -- six year old and three
6 year old are worth it. Thank you.

7 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, ma'am.

8 So next we'll hear from Ms. Kathryn
9 Hanratty, and I apologize, Mr. Goudreau, I think, if
10 you don't mind, we're going to ask Congressman Kaptur
11 to come up after her. So --

12 MS. HANRATTY: Hi. My name is Kathryn
13 Hanratty, I'm from Chardon, Ohio, my ZIP code is
14 44024. I'm offering my comments today as a lifelong
15 resident of the Lake Erie watershed, and I thank you
16 very much for this opportunity to speak to you.

17 The Great Lakes, and Lake Erie in
18 particular, have been an important part of my life
19 for as long as I can remember. I grew up on the
20 lakeshore swimming and hiking along the beaches. I'm
21 one of the thousands of people who boat and sail on
22 Lake Erie and also canoe and kayak on the rivers that
23 flow into the lake.

24 I love the lake. I'm proud that once in
25 my lifetime we were able to bring the lake back from

1 near destruction, now our lake is at risk again and
2 we must not wait until the brink of destruction this
3 time before we take the action to save the lake.

4 We have a very short window of
5 opportunity to address the threat of Asian carp. As
6 the most biologically productive of the Great Lakes,
7 Lake Erie is at the greatest risk of biological
8 collapse due to these invasive species.

9 Asian carp can and will dominate our
10 lakes and rivers if they're allowed to become
11 established, and as few as ten reproducing
12 individuals can establish a breeding population.
13 Each female can produce up to a million eggs, and
14 they grow so fast that our native predators can't
15 keep them in check.

16 If established, they will outcompete
17 native fish for food and habitat. In some places
18 where they have already invaded, they comprise more
19 than 95 percent of the biomass.

20 A healthy diversity of species is vital
21 to a functioning ecosystem. Each native species that
22 we lose makes our ecosystem poorer and less
23 resilient. Fast action is needed to keep this
24 invasive species from taking hold.

25 The current system of defense against

1 this onslaught is inadequate. Recent studies show
2 that small fish are able to pass through the electric
3 barriers, and the Corps' own shows -- study shows
4 that physical separation is the most effective
5 solution.

6 I believe that we must restore the
7 natural divide and physically separate Great Lakes
8 watershed from the Mississippi River watershed. Our
9 lakes are just too important to be risked on anything
10 less than the most effective solution.

11 Yes, it will be expensive to separate
12 the watersheds and restore the natural divide, but
13 doing nothing or doing this wrong will ultimately
14 cost much, much more. In places where these fish
15 have taken over, it is costing government, businesses
16 and taxpayers hundreds of million dollars in revenue,
17 direct and indirect costs every year. We -- the
18 longer we wait the worse this problem --

19 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

20 MS. HANRATTY: -- problem will become.
21 The potential for economic damage caused by this fish
22 warrants the cost of implementing the proper
23 solution, I ask you to act quickly to implement a
24 solution and restore the natural divide, please act
25 now. Thank you very much for your attention.

1 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, Ms.

2 Hanratty.

3 I'd like to remind any of you that may
4 have prepared a written comment, if you wouldn't
5 mind, you know, leaving it with us tonight. I mean,
6 we can ensure that we -- we captured everything that
7 you wanted to say tonight if you feel that you didn't
8 get that done. You can leave it at our welcome desk
9 or drop it off with me and we'll make sure we get it
10 turned in.

11 So at this point, Congresswoman.

12 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: Thank you. Good
13 afternoon, thank you for bringing this hearing to
14 Cleveland and for all the citizens who have come here
15 on the shores of the most productive fishery in our
16 entire Great Lakes.

17 The health of Lake Erie is absolutely --

18 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sorry to interrupt,
19 ma'am. Can I please get your name --

20 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: ZIP code?

21 MR. ZABOROWSKI: -- and ZIP code?

22 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: Okay.

23 Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

24 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

25 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: -- K-a-p-t-u-r,

1 and I suppose you could use 22315 (inaudible).

2 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, ma'am.

3 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: The health of
4 Lake Erie is absolutely pivotal to the future of our
5 nation, as well as this region.

6 The availability of abundant freshwater
7 is our region's most strategic advantage, and the
8 Great Lakes, of course, being the largest body of
9 freshwater on the face of the earth. That's why
10 protecting Lake Erie and the Great Lakes ecosystem is
11 crucial to our region and nation's economic and
12 ecological future.

13 The two major threats to the lake are
14 the algal blooms and Asian carp, and preventing Asian
15 carp from entering the Great Lakes system demands
16 immediate attention and action, not waiting 25 years.
17 We don't really need another study or another delay,
18 we need action, and I'm not sure the Corps can do it
19 alone. I think it's going to involve other
20 instrumentalities of the federal government working
21 in conjunction with local as well.

22 I wish I could say the Corps understands
23 the importance and urgency of the situation, but,
24 alas, one can question whether that is true because
25 the Corps was negligent in addressing this issue. It

1 took a bill in Congress to wake the Corps up from its
2 hibernation. The Corps' done this region a
3 disservice in failing to make a final and firm
4 recommendation about the best course of action to
5 prevent an Asian carp invasion in our lakes. When
6 the going got tough, the Corps, for whatever reason,
7 seems to have punted.

8 But here in Cleveland and in neighboring
9 Lorain and Sandusky and Port Clinton and Toledo, our
10 people know that the best defense is a good offense.
11 And it's time, well past time, to take the offensive
12 by supporting the hydrological separation of the
13 Great Lakes from the Mississippi River watershed, the
14 only credible solution. That is hard for the Corps
15 to do because one of every six of their new dollars
16 goes to the Everglades. So they are looking for the
17 budget to do this as well.

18 The Corps has attached some dollar
19 figures to several options for separation, but those
20 numbers are suspect at best. So what do we know? We
21 know that the Asian carp represents a clear and
22 almost present danger to Lake Erie. We know that
23 hydrological separation is the most effective
24 response to that danger. We know that separation
25 makes the most sense environmentally, and we know

1 that the project will not be cheap, although be sure
2 it will create thousands of jobs in the construction
3 industry, and, most of all, we know we cannot afford
4 not to pursue separation.

5 Our job will not be easy. We have to
6 summon the political will to meet this challenge and
7 we have to devise a strategy that will build a
8 movement to break down the barriers of those who are
9 reflexively opposed.

10 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

11 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: We think you may
12 have to start with a consensus among elected
13 officials, community leaders, cities and counties,
14 environmentalists, business and labor, the
15 faith-based community to save our lake.

16 In closing, we have to build a movement
17 to save our lake, we've done it before and now we
18 have to do it again. What we have to do is just the
19 opposite of what the Corps of Engineers has done.
20 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ran from the battle
21 when the horizon looked turbulent. Lake Erie and our
22 citizens don't have that luxury. We have to meet
23 this challenge head on, we have to save this lake and
24 the others. Thank you very much for allowing me to
25 talk.

1 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

2 So next on my list is Mr. George
3 Goudreau and then following him Mr. Jared Bartley.

4 MR. GOUDREAU: Good evening.

5 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Yes, sir, you're
6 good, just tilt it up a little bit, I think you'll be
7 just fine

8 MR. GOUDREAU: I'm such a short person.

9 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, my
10 name is George Goudreau, and I'm here tonight wearing
11 four different hats for four different groups that
12 I'm involved with.

13 I'm here first as a member of OGNR's
14 Office of Coastal Management, Coastal Resources
15 Advisory Council, and I'm a member of that council
16 and I'm past chair of that council.

17 I'm also representing the National
18 Association of Home Builders of the United States, of
19 which I'm a senior life director, member of the
20 Executive Committee and past chair of the Land Use
21 and Development Committee.

22 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sir, can I get your ZIP
23 code, please?

24 MR. GOUDREAU: I'm sorry. 44040.

25 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

1 MR. GOUDREAU: And the Ohio Home

2 Builders where I'm a life director, member of the

3 executive committee, and the Home Builders

4 Association of Greater Cleveland, where I'm a life

5 director and past president.

6 I'm also here representing -- those are

7 the professional affiliations. I'm also here

8 representing the private citizens, the Great Lakes

9 Cruising Club, where I'm a member and a port captain

10 for Catawba Island, Ohio, and the Georgian Bay

11 Association in Ontario, Canada, where I'm a member,

12 and I also have a cottage at the top of the Georgian

13 Bay.

14 During my 40 plus years that I've been

15 involved professionally in real estate development

16 and in recreational boating and fishing, I've had the

17 unique opportunity through my associations and my

18 personal activities to observe the changes in the

19 Great Lakes and its ecosystems.

20 All the organizations that I'm here

21 representing this evening today share the concerns

22 about invasive species into your Great Lakes and its

23 ecosystems, there's multiple systems.

24 Of the five Great Lakes, Lake Erie is

25 southerly most, it is the shallowest, and it is the

1 most prolific fishery of all the five Great Lakes.

2 The Ohio Department of Natural
3 Resources, and, obviously, Office of Coastal
4 Management has been very involved with the lake and
5 what happens to the lake, whether it be economic,
6 whether it be boating, whether it be commercial
7 fishing, whether it be recreational fishing.

8 Generally it is -- it is -- has moved to
9 prevent the movement of Asian carp into the Great
10 Lakes, it's critical to protect the health and value
11 of Ohio's world-class fisheries. The department has
12 consistently supported hydraulic separation. Ohio
13 will encourage and assist in any effort to ultimately
14 help determine a specific separation practice from
15 the recommendations that the Corps makes -- Corps'
16 report.

17 Some things that the -- that Ohio has
18 done, the ODNR, it's actively and routinely testing
19 and monitoring Lake Erie for the presence of Asian
20 carp. ODNR, Michigan DNR and the Wildlife Service
21 have found live Asian carp in Lake Erie --

22 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

23 MR. GOUDREAU: -- except grass carp.

24 Ohio has developed an Asian carp
25 tactical plan. This program where we have all the

1 five -- eight states that border the Great Lakes and
2 the two provinces of Canada, time is of the essence,
3 this cannot wait, you've heard other speakers say
4 that. We do not believe that a 25-year program is
5 realistic. We think that it's so critical that it
6 should be a five- to seven-year program.

7 MR. ZABOROWSKI: If I could ask you to
8 conclude your statements, sir.

9 MR. GOUDREAU: We must, must be
10 proactive, and we look to a containment closest to
11 the original boundaries that God created in the
12 basin. Thank you.

13 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

14 Mr. Bartley?

15 MR. BARTLEY: I'm Jared Bartley,
16 Cleveland, Ohio, ZIP code 44105, I'm the Rocky River
17 watershed coordinator.

18 I just want to reiterate what some of
19 the other commenters have said, that complete
20 hydrologic separation is absolutely necessary to
21 restore the original watershed divide to avoid
22 current risk and any future threats as far as ANS are
23 concerned.

24 Also, I want to encourage both urgency
25 and redundancy, especially with any threats from

1 future severe weather -- intense weather that we see
2 with climate change, we need to make sure that we're
3 taking those kind of things into consideration, and
4 then also have a stepwise process.

5 Some of you say it will take 25 years,
6 say, with, like, Alternative 6 with the complete
7 separation that restores -- more closely restores the
8 natural divide. If we could also include some of the
9 near term practices similar to the GLMRIS lock at
10 Brandon Road in Alternative 4 that can potentially be
11 completed more quickly to give -- buy some more time
12 to complete the further separation.

13 And then also even if -- you know,
14 whatever solution is made, just redundancy in the
15 system so any failure -- single failure would not
16 necessarily constitute a breach of the system.

17 And just to wrap up, it's been stated,
18 but the ecological and economic benefits far outweigh
19 the cost of any alternatives or all the alternatives
20 combined. So thank you.

21 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Bartley.

23 Next I have Hyle Lowry, if you could
24 make your way to the microphone, and then following
25 them I have Mr. Edward Yandek and then Mr. Dennis

1 Block.

2 So, sir, were either of those your name?

3 MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

4 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Mike Stansberry?

5 MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

6 MR. ZABOROWSKI: What?

7 MALE SPEAKER: Did you say Dennis Block,
8 the third one?

9 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Yes. I wanted to make
10 sure I got you.

11 When you're ready, ma'am.

12 MS. LOWRY: Hi. This keeps moving.

13 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Just name and ZIP code,
14 please.

15 MS. LOWRY: Kyle Lowry, 44022. Sorry
16 about my voice, I'm sick, but I wanted to be here.

17 I am with the Alliance for the Great
18 Lakes, and I represent the State of Ohio. I spend
19 most of my days, like a lot of us, taking care of my
20 kids, my home and I -- my job that I work at. And
21 for my career I've been dedicated to protecting the
22 Great Lakes, specifically Lake Erie.

23 As you know, the Alliance is based in
24 Chicago, so this issue is very important to us there,
25 but as well in all the Great Lakes states, and it's

1 great tonight to see so many familiar faces. There's
2 a lot of people out here that care and they're very
3 smart people, and from what they've said and from
4 what further comments I'm sure people will be saying,
5 as well as submitting, and I encourage people who
6 don't get that opportunity to talk, submit your
7 comments, because they will be heard and we need to
8 be proactive about this.

9 So my comments: We don't have time to
10 waste. Recent study confirmed that the electric
11 barrier, currently the last line of defense to keep
12 Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, may not be a
13 barrier at all because it allows small fish to pass
14 through. The status quo is not acceptable and we
15 need quick action on separation, it's urgent.

16 The cost of what's happening -- the cost
17 of what happens if aquatic invasive species get into
18 the Great Lakes because we didn't take strong enough
19 prevention measures will be many times higher than
20 the cost of implementing physical separation of the
21 basins. These waterborne invaders are already
22 causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage
23 each year to health, commerce, recreation and the
24 environment.

25 Lastly, the health of the Great Lakes

1 and Mississippi River, as well as the communities and
2 jobs they support, are really worth it. We can't put
3 a price tag on our region's quality of life and we
4 can't afford to undermine the investments we are
5 making in the protection of Great Lakes, we need to
6 do it now. Thank you for your time.

7 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, ma'am.

8 So next, name and ZIP code, please, when
9 you're ready.

10 MR. YANDEK: My name is Edward Yandek,
11 Y-a-n-d-e-k, ZIP code 44118 and ZIP code 44089, two
12 different counties both on the lake. Thank you for
13 the opportunity to speak.

14 My perspective is one of an engineer and
15 a longtime project manager. I've worked for a major
16 Fortune 50 company and have a lot of experience with
17 looking at risk analysis, which is -- which is what
18 you gentlemen have been doing, and I think you've
19 done a very good job identifying the various types of
20 solutions. I won't try and address many of the
21 comments that have been made by others more
22 eloquently on why we must do that, but I want to talk
23 to you as an engineer.

24 Working for a major corporation, when I
25 would propose a project, whether it was 1 million or

1 10 million or 50 million or whatever, to a series of
2 vice presidents, the first question I would always
3 get, when I had thought I had come up with a really
4 good timeline, aggressive, was always, "Yandek, this
5 has got to be done faster."

6 And I'm sure you guys have been in the
7 same situation, the question they would always ask me
8 is not can you do it faster, but what will it take
9 for you to do it faster. So does the \$15 billion
10 project become 20?

11 But the question really is this 25 years
12 is very, very much too long. We went from a standing
13 stop to put a man on the moon in ten, because we had
14 the will to do it and we funded it. And the question
15 here is much the same, assuming we have the will and
16 the funding, the question back to you from one
17 engineer to another is: Tell me what it takes to do
18 it in less than ten years. Thank you very much.

19 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

20 And then after Mr. Dennis Block, David
21 Redfield, you will be next.

22 MR. BLOCK: Okay?

23 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Yes, give your name.

24 MR. BLOCK: Name, Dennis Block, I'm a
25 retired financial officer, CPA. I'm representing

1 myself, I have no prepared remark or anything, it's
2 more directional because of my background as an
3 accountant, financial person.

4 So -- 44122.

5 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Perfect.

6 MR. BLOCK: Reading through the
7 frequently asked questions, seeing statements such as
8 the schedule assumes this completion, when will it be
9 implemented, assumes a nonfederal sponsor receives
10 capability funding, completes required land
11 acquisitions, et cetera et cetera, et cetera.

12 Obviously being financially oriented I
13 wonder where we're going to pay for all this and not
14 diminishing the need, that's why I'm here, I'm
15 concerned, I want to see this happen.

16 I've been living a lifelong -- life in
17 Cleveland on the lake, a powerboater, and seeing the
18 city go through the zebra mussel, you know, mess and
19 all that stuff, I guess I just wonder and apologize
20 in advance where I'm not familiar with all the
21 structures in place at the local, federal and state
22 level for assessing certain kind of fees and
23 collecting monies, I do pay my taxes and I do know
24 the general tax structure, but I'm not comfortable
25 with all the other mechanisms for getting money

1 accumulated for this, but it seems to me that somehow
2 waiting or observing long distance the dysfunction of
3 the various government levels with handling budgets
4 and deficits and collecting money and sorting through
5 priorities and knowing that California is going
6 through a major drought right now and the Colorado
7 River is running dry and muddy at certain parts, I
8 don't know that we'll be the top of the list knowing
9 how northeast Ohio and the Great Lakes region doesn't
10 necessarily always have the same glamour associated
11 with it than the coast, but I wonder -- and, again,
12 I, as I say, apologize in advance, what is being done
13 to accumulate some of this money in other vehicles or
14 mechanisms right now.

15 For example, as a former recreational
16 boater, a minimal amount, nonprohibitive attachment
17 to licensing of recreational vehicles or dollars
18 associated with rights to move down the St.
19 Lawrence and commercial shippers or commercial
20 fishing. I mean, begin getting money together, you
21 know you're going to need it, it softens the blow
22 with wherever we can or can't go in terms of
23 collection -- or using the monies from the general
24 revenue sources that everybody has trouble allocating
25 and prioritizing.

1 So it seems to me that somebody has to
2 be creative starting building some money, building
3 some funds and setting something aside as big as it
4 may get or as small as it may be to help fund this.
5 It's a very important issue, and, again, it's just my
6 personal opinion. So --

7 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you very much,
8 sir.

9 MR. WETHINGTON: Dennis, thank you for
10 your comments. I just want to take a quick moment to
11 address them.

12 I think that having this conversation,
13 like we are today, and taking the information that's
14 in the report and having this conversation with
15 regard to the collaborative path forward is really
16 the most important next step.

17 Before we can put money away, as you put
18 it, we really need to figure out what we're putting
19 our money -- what are we saving for and who is going
20 to be part of that ultimate solution. So I think
21 that having this conversation and being able to speak
22 your mind as a member of the public, decision-maker,
23 et cetera, I think that's really important. So thank
24 you for your comments.

25 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

1 Next I have Mr. David Redfield and then
2 following him Mike Stansberry.

3 MR. REDFIELD: Good evening, gentlemen,
4 how are you?

5 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Name and ZIP code,
6 please.

7 MR. REDFIELD: David Redfield, 48230.

8 I'm honored and humbled to be a part of
9 this process that the Corps has provided for input.
10 I'm from Grosse Pointe, Michigan, I'm a physicist and
11 engineer by education and co-owner of a manufacturing
12 business in Michigan. I was not able to speak in
13 Michigan due to a travel commitment so I have
14 traveled to Ohio to speak.

15 I have been listening and following the
16 issue of the silver and bighead carp making their way
17 to the Great Lakes for some time, but it stopped
18 becoming an abstract balance of shipping interests
19 and sport fishing economics, it became extremely
20 personal to me this past fall.

21 In the fall I look forward to the
22 arrival of migratory ducks over winter in both Lake
23 St. Clair and Lake Michigan and I developed a
24 hypothesis that the introduction of these large
25 predators, the bighead and silver carp, into this

1 ecosystem could be devastating.

2 My hometown of Grosse Pointe is located
3 on Lake St. Clair at the source of the Detroit River,
4 and I also regularly visit Sleeping Bear Dunes
5 National Lakeshore, and both are parts of the Great
6 Lakes basin.

7 I'm a birder and a life -- life list of
8 nearly 300 species, and I was out last Sunday with my
9 scope on a beautiful, sunny day and saw nearly 20 to
10 30,000 waterfowl, including swans, gulls, mergansers,
11 goldeneye, canvasbacks, scaups and two bald eagles.

12 If you've not have the opportunity to
13 have this experience, it can change your life, it
14 changed mine. I've see many of the same species in
15 Sleeping Bear Bay in the months of January and
16 February. These ducks feed on small fish, clams,
17 crustaceans, as well as plant material. The
18 voracious appetites of the ANS, referring to these
19 carp as a nuisance is an insult to even the most
20 amateur of ecologists such as myself, would, I
21 assert, upset the native fish and cascade the
22 ecosystem in the Great Lakes that all the animals
23 depend upon. This is no let -- no less a threat than
24 that of DDT to the public consciousness by Rachel
25 Carson.

1 The specter of this ecological
2 catastrophe frightens and sickens me. The most
3 expensive of the separation alternatives proposed by
4 the Corps costs upwards of \$20 billion, which
5 considering the alternatives for these funds, is a
6 small price to pay, in my opinion, to protect that
7 which is irreplaceable, the habitat of these
8 beautiful creatures.

9 This is a potential trophic cascade of
10 significant proportions that we must avoid with a
11 permanent separation. Have you seen the courtship
12 display of the bufflehead? Have you seen the plumage
13 of the hooded merganser in the sunlight? Have you
14 put your observational powers to work to distinguish
15 between the common and red breasted merganser?

16 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

17 MR. REDFIELD: If not, I encourage every
18 member of the Corps and all those who have worked on
19 this comprehensive study to find a bay or a cove in
20 one of our Great Lakes, grab your binoculars and take
21 15 minutes to experience the ducks, this is what is
22 at risk.

23 Thank you for listening. I encourage
24 the Corps to permanently separate the Mississippi
25 River and the Great Lakes Basin. Thank you.

1 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

2 Next on my list is Mike Stansberry.

3 MR. STANSBERRY: My name is Matt

4 Stansberry --

5 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Oh.

6 MR. STANSBERRY: Brecksville, Ohio

7 44141. I'm an angler and members of my family also
8 make a living fishing. My brother is sitting up
9 there, he is a captain, does guided fishing trips on
10 Lake Erie.

11 I live, I don't know, a half mile from
12 the Cuyahoga River and I'm on it every day with my
13 sons, and I've been on it since college at Kent State
14 and growing up as a kid in Portage County.

15 I'm, obviously, an advocate for complete
16 separation from the Mississippi watershed, whatever
17 the most effective means is, and I'm not going to, by
18 any means, tell you that I've studied the issue to
19 the level that you guys have. But the most effective
20 means possible is what I'm an advocate for.

21 I want to echo what -- what
22 Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur said earlier. I -- I --
23 I've never been so proud to be sitting in any kind of
24 public thing, so you have my vote and whatever
25 support I can give you.

1 I'm also committed -- you know,
2 committed to getting whatever political will that
3 needs to be done. You heard the -- the last
4 gentleman who spoke, you know, talking about things
5 that are irreplaceable, and I feel like we need to
6 summon here -- we're going to summon, with or without
7 the Corps, political will to get something through;
8 because there are people, like the person who drove
9 here from Michigan who just spoke before me, or me,
10 who see the natural ecosystem and the wildlife here
11 as irreplaceable, and if 95 percent of the biomass in
12 the Great Lakes are Asian carp, this place will
13 literally be uninhabitable for people like me who are
14 here and are part of the wildlife. This place will
15 become uninhabitable. Thanks.

16 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

17 At this point in time is there anybody
18 that registered at our welcome table that -- whose
19 name I have not called?

20 Sir, if you could make your way to the
21 microphone, I apologize for that, I must have
22 misplaced your name.

23 MR. SPECK: Right. I'm Sam Speck, I am
24 former director of Natural Resources in Ohio, most
25 recently served as one of the three U.S. members on

1 the International Joint Commission between the United
2 States and Canada.

3 My short speech --

4 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sir, can I get your ZIP
5 code, please?

6 MR. SPECK: Oh, sure. 43805.

7 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you very much.

8 MR. SPECK: My -- my short speech is
9 "Ditto," but I would first like to say that from
10 everything I have seen to date that a -- the
11 comprehensive approach is the one that it takes to be
12 certain that we're going to get what we expect and
13 what we clearly need.

14 I'm concerned about the 25 years that it
15 may take to do that and would urge that if there are
16 things that we can do along the way that may not be a
17 part of that but that would give us additional
18 protection along the way that we should certainly
19 consider that.

20 Hearing that \$18 billion is just an
21 awful lot of money, we're talking about 18 billion
22 that would be spent over 25 years, that's less than a
23 billion a year. We have been giving, I noticed,
24 Egypt over a billion a year. When you look at what
25 we can do elsewhere for other people, hopefully, we

1 can do this to protect the Great Lakes, which
2 involves 20 percent of the world's fresh surface
3 water.

4 You know, we've been talking about the
5 impact of this on the Great Lakes, what we need to do
6 here, but we're also talking about what the Great
7 Lakes can shed off in terms of invasive species
8 outside the Great Lakes, and your report, I think,
9 lays that out usefully; but we're talking about not
10 merely the good that can be done by this for the
11 Great Lakes, but we're talking about the good that
12 could be done for much of the rest of the country.

13 If you look at where the other rivers
14 come down and ultimately get into the Mississippi but
15 they come from us up to them, it goes clear out to
16 Montana. So this is a much bigger issue, with much
17 greater benefits, than simply in the Great Lakes
18 which we care so much about.

19 It's for those reasons I would simply
20 urge that we do move ahead, that the 18 billion is
21 really not that big of a deal when you consider all
22 that is involved and all that will be lost, which is
23 much, much greater than \$18 billion. Thank you.

24 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

25 Is there anyone else that registered out

1 at our table whose name I did not call?

2 Checking all corners, that being said,
3 we still have plenty of time until 7:00, and so if
4 anyone has -- that has already made a comment or has
5 not made a comment and hasn't registered would like
6 to come up and, you know, offer a comment or ask a
7 question of the panel, I'd like to open this up now
8 to -- I'm going to keep to the three minutes because,
9 again, we still have a lot of people, I just want to
10 be upfront about that. If you've already made a
11 comment, I will ask you again to give your name and
12 ZIP code before you speak.

13 So I saw two hands. Mr. Dabson, I saw
14 yours first, so if you'd like to come back up, and
15 then, again, please state your name and ZIP code, and
16 we'll keep it to three minutes, if you don't mind.

17 MR. DABSON: Dean Dabson, ZIP code is
18 44060.

19 The question of cost always comes up,
20 and originally when I did the White Paper for Dino
21 DiSanto, chief of staff for Steven LaTourette -- I
22 guess he's chief of staff for David Joyce now, who's
23 the representative in Congress, and I -- I mentioned
24 the infrastructure bank, and this is something that
25 the Chamber of Congress, Bailey Hutchinson, John

1 Kerry, there's quite a few other congressmen really
2 wanted an infrastructure bank, and an investment of
3 \$30 billion would yield about 600 billion in
4 infrastructure investment in the United States, and
5 we have fallen now to -- I think it's 14th in the
6 world as far as infrastructure.

7 And I had also talked to one of the
8 staffers for -- I think it's Bob Gibbs from southern
9 Ohio, and he seemed to be interested, but the problem
10 is these people never call you back and these things
11 die. So, you know, this needs to be done, and, of
12 course, it's going to cost money.

13 So I thought of something else. Since
14 the administration -- you know, when they discovered
15 that this sounded like a good Republican idea, they
16 proposed it, and then it died, so -- because anything
17 he proposes gets shot down. So perhaps another
18 Republican could, if we can find one willing to do
19 it, or a Democrat working with Republicans, since
20 they seem to control the purse strings.

21 Regional infrastructure banks, that
22 might be an idea to help finance projects like this.
23 So it's just -- just a thought, and seemed like a
24 good idea at the time, but, again, unless -- unless
25 the public really gets on these things -- we have to

1 compete in the world, and infrastructure is one thing
2 that other countries are really heavily investing in
3 and we're falling behind on it, and this could be one
4 project where an infrastructure bank would definitely
5 help and would help the employment as well.

6 Just one quick thing, and I put this in
7 my comments, in the GLMRIS report was that this is an
8 employee light system. You know, they talk about,
9 you know, this is important with the jobs on the
10 barges, it's, you know, one crew and one tug pushing
11 all of these barges. In Belgium where they have --

12 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

13 MR. DABSON: -- where they have this
14 huge lift system that carries barges up a 200-foot
15 lift to -- and forms a barrier between a lower lock
16 and an upper lock, that one -- you know, each barge
17 has a crew, and the same thing in Russia with their
18 marine rail system in Eurasia, 1,800 barges up a
19 300-foot incline, each barge has a crew.

20 So, again, this makes our problem -- our
21 situation more difficult, but don't -- don't buy the
22 argument that it's all about employment with the
23 barge industry, et cetera, et cetera. So that's just
24 my comments on that.

25 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you again,

1 Mr. Dabson.

2 MR. SHAW: Kendall?

3 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Congresswoman, would
4 you like to come up again?

5 Sir, after -- if you want to make your
6 way to a microphone.

7 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: Never met an
8 elected official that didn't want to say something.

9 Yes, following the last speaker --

10 MR. ZABOROWSKI: I apologize, but --

11 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: You know, I'm
12 trying to remember the ZIP code of the Rayburn
13 Building in Washington and I can't remember it. So
14 just put "Rayburn Building."

15 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Okay.

16 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: I wanted to just
17 say with the Corps here, and I've been speaking with
18 several people in Washington about this challenge, I
19 serve on the Energy and Water Committee, which has
20 the Corps' budget under it, and I'm the ranking
21 member on my side of the aisle on that committee, but
22 as I do the work of our committee -- and this is
23 important for those of us who live in this region to
24 know and the general Great Lakes to know, over a
25 hundred years ago 17 states in the west, about 1902,

1 decided that with the help of the whole nation that
2 they were going to be developed, and they created an
3 instrumentality, and the name of it is the Bureau of
4 Reclamation, and every year -- every year those 17
5 states get an appropriated dollar amount of \$1.1
6 billion.

7 We have nothing like it in this region
8 of the country. The Corps works out there, too, it
9 helps them. They're not a part of that budget, the
10 Corps adds their money to that. And over the years
11 if one looks at what has happened, we've electrified
12 the west and we have built the modern equivalent of
13 an aqueduct system like no other place on earth.

14 California cannot stay alive, Colorado
15 cannot stay alive, et cetera, without this
16 very intricate system being in place. And I find the
17 name Bureau of Reclamation a very interesting name.
18 I believe our country needs to be -- our part of the
19 country needs to be reclaimed, because the corridor
20 from Duluth to Buffalo truly has a number of
21 challenges now in this new millennium very different
22 from what the nation faced over a hundred years ago
23 as we developed the west, and some of those
24 challenges involve environmental -- unmet
25 environmental cleanup, whether it's our combined

1 sewer overflows or whether it's the cleanup of
2 contaminated sites that relate to our defense
3 industry and some of the brownfields as a result of
4 our manufacturing.

5 And when I travel those parts of the
6 country, and I go with the Corps many times, I am
7 just absolutely in awe of what happens in other parts
8 of the country, whether you look at the Hoover Dam or
9 whether you look at the way that the water moves from
10 the snow melt in California all the way down to Los
11 Angeles and from over in parts -- points east of
12 there. So you think about what we've done in other
13 parts of America and then you look at us.

14 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

15 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: With the most
16 magnificent freshwater system on the face of the
17 earth. We do not have an instrumentality. The Corps
18 cannot do this job alone. And so I just wanted to
19 say in front of the Corps, and I spoke with the
20 Secretary of Energy today, I have spent quite a bit
21 of time with General Bostick from the Corps, and try
22 -- just with the new administrator of the St.
23 Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Betty
24 Sutton, who came from Akron, Ohio, and now heads the
25 Seaway, we need a development instrumentality like

1 those 17 western states had over a hundred years ago
2 to reclaim this part of America, and we hope the
3 Corps can be a part of helping us vision what that
4 might be, and that would include some of the
5 financing mechanisms that some people have referenced
6 here today. Thank you again all for coming.

7 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, ma'am.

8 Name and ZIP code first, please.

9 MR. DUNN: My name is Lucas Dunn, 44135,
10 Cleveland.

11 I first heard about this issue when I
12 was in Hocking College, and I thought I had the
13 solution then but it didn't seem reasonable, but it
14 still seems like a good idea.

15 The separation seems like the long-term
16 plan, but when people say they want immediate action,
17 I think one of the solutions would just be to
18 monetize the Asian carp.

19 We can use them in fish food, we can use
20 them in poultry food, we can use them in -- in
21 livestock feed, why don't we make a false high price
22 for them and encourage fishermen to go out.

23 Like, I don't know how many pounds of
24 carp they -- are actually out there, has anybody ever
25 figured that out? Is it a billion pounds, because

1 that would be a dollar a pound. That would give
2 people jobs, you can go out, catch 10-, 20-pound carp
3 and come home with 200 bucks at the end of the day.

4 You know, how long would it take? I
5 think we can eliminate the perch population in -- in
6 two years in Lake Erie if we didn't regulate how many
7 that people could take. And I think, if you've ever
8 been to Maumee during the salmon run, you can see how
9 eager people are to catch those, and they -- all they
10 get is salmon -- or not salmon but --

11 MALE SPEAKER: Steelhead.

12 AUDIENCE: Walleye.

13 MALE SPEAKER: And the Walleye.

14 MR. DUNN: Walleye. Yeah, the walleye
15 around here.

16 MALE SPEAKER: Maumee.

17 MALE SPEAKER: Yeah.

18 MR. DUNN: Sorry.

19 MALE SPEAKER: Walleye.

20 MR. DUNN: So, you know, the rivers and
21 banks would be crowded with people trying to make that
22 money and get that stuff, and like you're talking \$15
23 billion, that might be a good long-term, plan, but
24 maybe just \$1 billion and a little bit of
25 infrastructure and some refrigerated tanks in some

1 places, some different things to move the fish to the
2 mills, the processing plants, and it wouldn't be a
3 permanent solution, but it would be enough to knock
4 them back far enough that they wouldn't be this
5 instant immediate threat that they're at right now.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

8 Actually I believe the gentleman behind
9 you was first, I'll get you next, sir.

10 Name and ZIP code, please.

11 MR. STANSBERRY: All right. Captain
12 Nate Stansberry, 44107.

13 I've been involved in commercial fishing
14 for over ten years and I'm probably one of the
15 younger audience members. You guys are getting beat
16 up pretty bad up there and that's -- that's okay.
17 That's okay. These people care, we all care.

18 My brother and I, we've traveled the
19 country on the East Coast and West Coast chasing
20 fishing all our lives. We came back home to start
21 families, own houses, and I can promise you if you're
22 having budget problems, try getting a mortgage being
23 a fishing guide. It's almost impossible.

24 But the question I ask you, and maybe
25 this will be a chance for you guys to shed some

1 positive light on all of this, has the Corps ever
2 been successful in prohibiting invasive species in
3 any type of fishery, ecosystem in the history of the
4 Corps? Thank you.

5 MR. WETHINGTON: Thanks, Nate. Let me,
6 I guess, take -- take a quick stab and answer that.

7 I know aquatic nuisance species or
8 invasive species in general are very difficult to
9 deal with. And so, you know, this specific issue
10 with regard to aquatic nuisance species is relatively
11 new for the Corps of Engineers. We are traditionally
12 a water resources organization. We maintain harbors
13 and waterways, we, you know, protect shorelines, we
14 build infrastructure to help with power generation,
15 hydropower.

16 So we're the nation's engineers. Our --
17 our -- really our expertise is in specific
18 engineering. So now we are getting in a little bit
19 to biology with invasive species and aquatic nuisance
20 species. And, you know, the reason why we were
21 brought into this is because of our engineering
22 expertise in looking at building barriers and trying
23 to innovate.

24 And so we're -- we're certainly an
25 adaptable agency. We may be big and ponderous and

1 slow like a lot of folks have said, but really we try
2 to serve in that role as best as we possibly can.

3 We do do a lot of work in the Everglades
4 with regard to species control. We have our invasive
5 species center of expertise down in Jacksonville
6 District and have done a lot of work with trying to
7 restore the Everglades, but, again, a lot of that has
8 to do with restoring waterways and the flow of water
9 within the Everglades.

10 So our -- our mission that we're trying
11 to kind of implement here, specifically as a Corps of
12 Engineers, is ecosystem restoration, or with GLMRIS
13 it's really ecosystem protection. And so, again, I
14 hate to kind of say it's not necessarily just the
15 Corps's responsibility, but it is really a shared
16 responsibility.

17 We have had success in projects like the
18 Everglades, but with regard to looking at species and
19 how they are managed, it -- you know, it's your
20 responsibility, my responsibility, as well as other
21 state agencies', other federal agencies'
22 responsibility, because, you know, as someone who is
23 familiar with fishing is familiar with the -- the
24 introduction of bait buckets and, you know, dumping
25 bait buckets from one body of water to the other is a

1 -- is a bad idea. And so we -- we all have to
2 understand that, and, you know, you and I may
3 understand that but others may not.

4 So, again, going back to the successes
5 we've experienced as an organization have been
6 primarily with regard to those large water resource
7 infrastructure projects, and, you know, we're --
8 we're trying to work with our partners on this very
9 unique, kind of relatively new -- we've been doing it
10 for a number of years, but a relatively new issue.

11 So we appreciate everyone's comments.
12 You know, you mentioned that we've been getting beat
13 up, and I -- I kind of don't feel as if it's being
14 beat up, it's really hearing your voice, and I think
15 that's the important thing. You know, what we hear
16 in Chicago, what we hear in New Orleans might be very
17 different from what we hear here in Cleveland.

18 So it's really important for us to hear
19 this and for your voices to be heard, not just by
20 ourselves, but by those important decision-makers,
21 whether they be, you know, locally elected officials,
22 national elected officials, as well as other resource
23 agencies. So thank you so much to all of you, and
24 particularly Nate and your brother for coming out
25 tonight.

1 MR. ZABOROWSKI: I believe the
2 gentleman, yes, sir.

3 Name and ZIP code when you're ready,
4 please.

5 MR. FLETCHER: Yes. Thank you. Home
6 ZIP code is 44846 and work ZIP code is 43452, which
7 is Port Clinton, Ohio, also known as the walleye
8 capital of the world, if you didn't know that.

9 I'm going to submit some -- some written
10 testimony but I'm just going to put a couple of
11 numbers out.

12 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sir, can I get your
13 name, please?

14 MR. FLETCHER: Larry Fletcher.

15 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

16 MR. FLETCHER: Larry Fletcher, I'm
17 sorry, and I'm the director of the Ottawa County
18 Visitors Bureau. Just a few numbers that haven't
19 been mentioned tonight which will be on -- on a
20 statement that I will give you.

21 According to the Ohio Division of
22 Wildlife, these are figures for 2013, 721 Ohio based
23 licensed charter boat captains on the lake, 856,474
24 fishing licenses were sold in Ohio last year, large
25 percentage of those anglers do fish on Lake Erie,

1 that's a lot of fishing licenses.

2 The Division of Wildlife data also shows
3 that trips booked by the charter captains that I
4 mentioned, along with the harvest from private boats
5 fishing Lake Erie's Ohio's waters resulted in a
6 harvest of 5.1 million pounds of walleye, yellow
7 perch, steelhead, trout and other species.

8 Commercial fishing adds another 4.8 million pounds
9 last year.

10 The American Sport Fishing Association
11 estimates that Lake Erie sport fishing expenditures
12 topped \$1 billion annually. So this is -- these are
13 dollars that are spent, not only by those anglers on
14 their fishing activities, but then you have all the
15 spending that is done for the fuel, for the overnight
16 stays, for the restaurants, et cetera, et cetera.
17 Of course, there's a number -- another set of
18 statistics for the boating activities.

19 Really, the birding is something I had
20 not thought about and -- and the interrelationship
21 between those species, our area of Ohio, the western
22 basin of Lake Erie, one of the top ten birding spots
23 in the world -- in the world, and huge amounts of
24 money spent by those birders, and some of that
25 certainly is at risk as well.

1 And then as Kristy Meyer mentioned
2 earlier, economic impact not only for the -- the lake
3 counties in Ohio, there are eight counties that
4 border the lake, and -- and \$11.5 billion was spent
5 in those counties -- just in those counties. There
6 are 88 counties in the State of Ohio, and eight
7 counties, as Kristy said, almost a third of all the
8 tourism spending was just in eight counties.

9 So that is a testament to the power of
10 the lake and the importance of the lake, not only to
11 -- to those counties that border the lake and those
12 residents, but the entire state.

13 So, again, I will submit these comments.
14 I also invite any of you to come over to our area. I
15 know Mr. Goss has been over there. We'll go down to
16 a waterfront dining establishment, we'll have a nice
17 meal, and you can gaze out onto that beautiful body
18 of water that we're all here trying to protect with
19 your help. Thank you very much.

20 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

21 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Thanks.

22 MR. GOSS: Thanks, Mr. Fletcher.

23 MR. ZABOROWSKI: I have you, sir, first
24 and then we'll go up here.

25 MR. BLOCK: Dennis Block, 44122.

1 Having heard Congresswoman Kaptur and
2 the person that just spoke from the tourism office,
3 it seems like -- I just heard \$856,000 in additional
4 -- a dollar fee for fishing license, I mean, we're --
5 we're just talking about local areas in Ohio and then
6 you expand it to other states.

7 I didn't understand your reply to me
8 saying, "Well, we have to define the mission, we have
9 to identify the priorities, we have to define the
10 task and then we worry about money." Why don't we
11 worry about getting as much together as possible to
12 put together a reclamation fund that can be used to
13 defend a number of different things in the area,
14 whether it be pollution or it be the invasive species
15 or beachline erosion or whatever. It seems like the
16 sooner you put money together, the more options you
17 have down the road.

18 So that's my question. I just didn't
19 understand your reply when you said, "Well, we can't
20 collect any money or decide on any mechanism for
21 collecting money until we know how we are going to
22 spend it." Every year in Congress they spend money
23 before they have budgets. So it's no big deal, they
24 do it everywhere.

25 MR. WETHINGTON: And let me just

1 clarify, I guess, my response. I appreciate exactly
2 what you're saying, it makes sense.

3 With regard to us, Corps of Engineers
4 sitting here, we don't collect money. We --
5 traditionally we partner with other agencies,
6 nonfederal sponsors is how we refer to them. And so
7 they are consortiums or they are either individual
8 states or governmental agencies or consortiums of
9 these nonfederal agencies to work together toward
10 completing a project.

11 And so if you were to -- you know,
12 obviously our congressional representatives can
13 authorize us and legislate us to do something a
14 hundred percent on our own, a hundred percent
15 federally funded, which is, obviously, you know, way
16 beyond my control; but I guess all I was trying to
17 kind of bring to the understanding is that it's not
18 the Corps of Engineers specifically who would collect
19 money. We don't have a money collecting --

20 MR. BLOCK: I wasn't implying that.

21 MR. WETHINGTON: Okay. Well, yeah,
22 exactly. So --

23 MR. BLOCK: I was just saying anywhere
24 we can, whoever knows how to do it, start getting
25 some money together and let's have it at our

1 (inaudible).

2 MR. WETHINGTON: And, again, you guys
3 are probably going to get tired of me saying "shared
4 responsibility," but, you know, it's really something
5 we need to discuss and we need to -- you know, this
6 is how that conversation starts, that's how we get
7 these groups together who want to collect this money
8 and come forward and say, "Hey, we want to build this
9 project," and then we find ways to -- to make it
10 happen. So thank you so much for your comments.

11 MR. ZABOROWSKI: The gentleman up here
12 indicated that -- so when you're ready, sir, if we
13 can get your name and ZIP code.

14 MR. BUNSEY: I know the protocol here.

15 It's Bob Bunsey, B-u-n-s-e-y, ZIP code
16 44839, that's in Huron.

17 I happen to be a 30-year homeowner on
18 the lake, and if you were to look at Lake Erie and
19 see where the most southern point of Lake Erie is,
20 you will see where our house is, and over that period
21 of time I have seen a lot of changes in the lake,
22 some good, some bad.

23 Some of the good ones are we have seen
24 the waterfowl, as other commenters have mentioned,
25 we've seen great -- we've seen bald eagles fly by our

1 house, which we have never seen in the past. If you
2 want to get your hair on your arms stood on end you
3 just have a bald eagle fly over your head and it goes
4 (making noise) with his wings, it's awesome.

5 And I've seen bad things like the -- the
6 inky waters that is caused by the algae plume, that
7 stinks. I've seen tons and tons of zebra mussel,
8 it's almost like somebody with a front-end loader
9 dropped mountains of zebra mussels on our beach.

10 Okay?

11 So that gives you an idea of where I am
12 coming from as a resident on the lake, also as a
13 protector of the environment. I'm a member of the
14 Ohio Lakefront Group, we have -- I'm a director
15 there. We have 5,000 to 6,000 members of the
16 Lakefront Group that live on the lake, and they are
17 protectors of the lake as well.

18 Listening to these various comments that
19 have been made today, it -- it -- it gave me an idea,
20 and -- I -- I also am a president of a technology
21 company -- small technology company, and you may have
22 heard the term "big data" before. Big data is
23 collecting information at a mountainous rate, and not
24 knowing exactly what you're going to do with it, but
25 you're going to make a coordination analysis with it.

1 Okay? It doesn't tell you causality, but it does
2 tell you correlation.

3 Now, what if we had, as the Ohio
4 Lakefront Group, our 6,000 members as observers
5 reporting conditions on the lake in real time
6 directly against a giant database, a website that
7 would be created, and what if we had those 12,000
8 eyeballs not only on that, but also on lake vessels,
9 on powerboats, on sailboats. I'm a master captain
10 myself, I also was a commodore of the Sandusky Yacht
11 Club. If we can get the yacht clubs --

12 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

13 MR. BUNSEY: -- energized to report
14 things in real time as they are out on the lake, and
15 all of this would not cost a whole lot of money, but
16 it will give us something right now that we can get
17 data that we can make correlations against, and that
18 would help us, I think, spawn some -- some funding
19 ideas, and that may be what we need to get going
20 sooner than later. Thank you.

21 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Thank you.

22 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

23 Yes, sir.

24 Bill, if you can give your name and ZIP
25 code. I know you're probably tired of me saying

1 that.

2 MR. GINN: Bill Ginn, 44026.

3 We heard tonight, I think, and I'm
4 pleased that we did and I'm sure that the Corps is
5 listening, that a long-term solution that separates
6 these two watersheds is the thing that all of us,
7 mostly us here in the room and elsewhere, believe is
8 necessary and appropriate and possible.

9 One of the things that we heard was the
10 cost of doing nothing or the cost of doing something,
11 that doesn't meet the necessary criteria for
12 combating the Asian carp.

13 And one thing that we didn't hear
14 tonight, but it was inherent in that, is the number
15 of jobs currently on Lake Erie alone that are at risk
16 if these costs and revenue streams are expunged by
17 the Asian carp; and there is data that shows that at
18 least 900,000 jobs are currently involved in the
19 Great Lakes -- in Lake Erie because of the present
20 condition that we're trying protect.

21 I think jobs is a big thing in this
22 country and in this here area, and we ought to think
23 about the jobs that might be wiped out, if you will,
24 by the Asian carp. Thank you.

25 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, Bill.

1 MR. STARK: John Stark, 43017.

2 So I was thinking as we were going
3 through this, one of the things that we had put
4 briefly in our written comments is that this
5 particular process needs to be a really widespread
6 stakeholder process.

7 And so I'm sitting here thinking about
8 an answer in Chicago on how to proceed versus an
9 answer in New Orleans versus an answer in the west
10 might be completely different, and so I'm kind of
11 curious and the question I guess I'm really posing to
12 one of you, I don't know if it's most appropriate for
13 John or the Colonel, but in any case, what's the next
14 step?

15 You know, we're all thinking how do you
16 select the best process, how do you go through that?
17 How is the stakeholder process going to be
18 structured, how are you going to pull in that broad
19 representation we're talking about, because
20 theoretically you're dealing with 32 states and 2
21 provinces when you get right down to it. So there
22 might even be an international component to all this.

23 MR. GOSS: There -- there is no
24 established process for this consensus discussion
25 because this is a very unique project, and as -- as

1 you recognize the range of stakeholder groups that
2 are very, you know, deeply concerned, it's pretty
3 wide.

4 However, there are some forums where
5 those groups are conducting conversations, and over
6 the course of the next several weeks in meetings,
7 we've already started those with -- with several
8 stakeholder groups, we're getting suggestions, like
9 we have today, for what would be the next best steps
10 so that we can try to reach what -- what would be
11 valuable to the long term that could be done in the
12 short term that would make a difference while we
13 continue to work on the best long-term solution.

14 So I think we do not have an established
15 consensus building agreement from agencies or
16 anything, but I think we need to have faith in the
17 discussion process continuing and the commitment from
18 -- I know from many groups that are represented here
19 to this discussion process to keep working on what
20 can we agree on and what can we build momentum for
21 funding.

22 As Congresswoman Kaptur is so aware,
23 we're going to have to translate that into action
24 with broad-based support. So we appreciate everyone
25 working through your networks to send messages that

1 this can be accomplished. It will take some serious
2 work by all of us. Thanks.

3 MR. ZABOROWSKI: We'll go -- you might
4 (inaudible) I haven't seen you up here before.

5 MALE SPEAKER: I think he was before me.

6 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sir?

7 MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

8 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sorry. If you'd like
9 to come up first.

10 MR. MILLIKAN: I can wait.

11 MR. ZABOROWSKI: No, I haven't seen you
12 up here yet. It's dark out there.

13 MR. MILLIKAN: There's a lot of really
14 smart people in here tonight and nice to see
15 everybody, a lot of nice comments.

16 I have a comment --

17 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sir --

18 MR. MILLIKAN: Scott Millikan, 44111.

19 Obviously, I'm not one of the smart
20 ones.

21 I have a question to propose for the --
22 for whoever wants to answer this from the Corps of
23 Engineers. Whereas the Chicago waterway is the clear
24 and present danger for the invasion of this fish,
25 we'll call it that, I understand that there are other

1 areas of concern such as the Wabash River in Indiana,
2 and are there any other entry points other than the
3 Chicago River that the Corps needs to be very
4 concerned about and is there being anything addressed
5 to that end?

6 MR. WETHINGTON: Excellent question,
7 Scott. Appreciate that.

8 At the beginning of my conversation I --
9 we outlined that there's a nearly 1,500 mile basin
10 divide between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi
11 River Basin, and along that divide we've identified
12 18 other sites outside of the Chicago Area Waterway
13 System.

14 GLMRIS, as authorized by the original
15 legislation, looked at a comprehensive evaluation of
16 the transfer of species between the Great Lakes and
17 Mississippi River Basin. So we looked at that entire
18 pathway. It was only the more recent legislation
19 that focused this particular report on the Chicago
20 waterway.

21 So prior to receiving that legislation,
22 we had a much wider net, and some of that work still
23 continues. We were successful in identifying those
24 18 other pathways, but what -- you know, the piece of
25 good news around those 18 other pathways is that when

1 you look at their comparison, and you and others have
2 called it a clear and present danger with regard to
3 the Chicago Area Waterway System.

4 As we look at the comparison of
5 significance or the likelihood of species transfer at
6 those other sites, it's much, much reduced. Reason
7 for that is twofold. First is that many of the sites
8 themselves are episodic. That means that they only
9 form an aquatic connection when there's significant
10 precipitation, rainfall, in that area. So most of
11 the time they're dry. So there's no way for species
12 to really transfer. And a lot of those areas there
13 aren't species immediately, I guess, perched, ready
14 to make that basin jump.

15 The other kind of good news part of that
16 story is that when it comes to addressing these and
17 taking care of them in a long-term manner, it's
18 really a lot simpler than the Chicago Area Waterway
19 System, which is why we've worked very extensively
20 with John here and the states and the local resource
21 agencies, because, you know, if it's a matter of
22 dumping, you know, a few hundred cubic yards into a
23 farmer's ditch and that being the way to seal off one
24 of those 18 sites, you know, in kind of my opinion
25 there's no need for that to become a federal project,

1 that can be taken care of very easily at the state or
2 the local level.

3 So we've tried to advance -- you know,
4 the Corps has partnered with state representatives to
5 try and advance the movement of kind of assessments
6 and prioritization of each of those sites, and there
7 are a number of sites that are currently being taken
8 care of. Eagle Marsh and the intersection between
9 the Wabash and Maumee, that one is currently being
10 assessed by the Natural Resources Conservation
11 Services, in collaboration with the state and the
12 Corps of Engineers providing some technical detail
13 engineering-level support.

14 So John can speak a little bit more if
15 I've missed anything, but really we have done a lot
16 of work trying to identify those sites. If you want
17 to read more about them, there's actually information
18 on our website about each one of those site-specific
19 pathway assessment reports that can tell you a lot
20 more about what could potentially transfer at those
21 sites.

22 MR. GOSS: One additional comment. The
23 Corps often is faulted for being slow, but on this
24 particular project they completed those risk
25 assessments and the evaluations in about a year, and

1 since that was over a year and a half ago that we got
2 those reports, the DNRs in each state now are taking
3 the lead on coming up with what is the best solution.
4 And certainly in Indiana we will likely have it
5 funded by sometime in 2014 to separate the Wabash
6 from the Maumee connection in Fort Wayne, and in Ohio
7 we have some additional modeling work to do on the
8 hydrology on their sites, but we're committed to
9 getting those funded and blocked off also.

10 So we're -- we're making real progress,
11 we're just a little bit quiet about it.

12 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

13 Next, Kristy, if you'd like to come
14 back, and then I have a gentleman that actually
15 registered at our table, so [REDACTED], if you're
16 available after Kristy goes.

17 MS. MEYER: Thank you. I'm Kristy Meyer
18 again, 44 -- wow, I just forgot my ZIP code.

19 MR. ZABOROWSKI: There's a lot of
20 pressure on you now.

21 MS. MEYER: 43212. Sorry. Yeah.
22 Well, that's my work address.

23 But I just quickly want to note that
24 some -- I just got a text from people in Toledo,
25 they are stuck because of weather and there's lot of

1 people off the road. So if you're driving back that
2 way, please be careful.

3 But I did want to note that, you know,
4 we're talking about taking in consideration people
5 from, you know, various parts of the country, and
6 certainly we should -- and -- and John's right, it --
7 it -- and Sam's right, too, that it isn't just the
8 Great Lakes, it's also the Mississippi River, it's
9 also the Ohio River.

10 MALE SPEAKER: Ohio River.

11 MS. MEYER: And a lot of us here, you
12 know, are worried about the Ohio River as well.

13 But the USGS, as you guys know, put out
14 a report stating that really that the Grand, the
15 Maumee and the Sandusky River are prime habitat for
16 Asian carp, and I think that was confirmed this year
17 when we saw grass carp, you know, establish
18 population in the Sandusky River.

19 So it really worries me that -- you
20 know, maybe there's not a process for figuring out,
21 you know, public comments and how to figure out how
22 to move forward. And I'm sure it worries a lot of --
23 a lot of people in the room.

24 But I did want to touch briefly on the
25 funding, and, you know, urge you guys to start

1 working -- obviously you're going to have to work
2 with a cost share, you need somebody to share this
3 cost with you, and start working with the Chicago
4 folks in trying to figure out how we can come up with
5 a funding source.

6 I also really want to urge that we don't
7 raid the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. It's
8 doing really fantastic work across the Great Lakes to
9 do very important work, and so I really don't want to
10 see it raided.

11 And then I have a question. So I -- I
12 did quickly, I'll admit -- so you guys put this
13 report out when I was on vacation, I quickly got back
14 and tried to scour through it, and I noticed in
15 there, if I'm correct, and if I'm not I apologize,
16 but in there you talk about the aquatic nuisance
17 species treatment plants, right?

18 MR. WETHINGTON: Mm-hmm, right.

19 MS. MEYER: You talk about using UV, but
20 you note that you never -- that this has never been
21 used before to kill aquatic invasive species. So I'm
22 wondering are you testing it now, are there other
23 options, what happens if it doesn't work, just kind
24 of those type questions.

25 MR. WETHINGTON: Perfect. So the

1 aquatic nuisance species treatment plant that we kind
2 of conceptualize -- and, again, these are 5 percent
3 level designs, we believe that they are implementable
4 and we believe that they are feasible, we believe
5 they will work.

6 UV treatment is actually widely used for
7 drinking water treatment. The State of New York
8 recently built a multibillion dollar -- close to a
9 billion dollar treatment facility specifically for
10 drinking water using UV treatment.

11 So the way UV works is it inactivates or
12 kills, in very similar terms -- inactivates
13 microorganisms, other things in the waterway. So
14 using a -- kind of a series of screens to get rid of
15 the larger fish, and then filters to get rid of, you
16 know, plants and other things, anything that makes it
17 through -- if you have some algae, if you have some
18 virus like the viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus get
19 through, they run it through that UV treatment
20 system, and we firmly believe that this is a very
21 strong concept for inactivating those particular
22 species of concern.

23 If it's good enough for human potable
24 water, for drinking water, then we believe that it
25 will also serve to inactivate those aquatic nuisance

1 species of concern.

2 So that's the concept. I know we
3 haven't done any specific work, but it's widely
4 utilized in drinking water infrastructure. So it's
5 -- you know, it's commonly accepted in that sense.

6 MS. MEYER: If I may, just to follow up.
7 So I'm just wondering do we have any proof from maybe
8 New York that this does kill all biological species
9 that maybe are going through?

10 I guess just a concern, as I'm sure --
11 you know, I -- I agree with you, the big screens will
12 take out the big stuff, right, or the screens will
13 take out the big fish and so forth, but the little
14 micro -- you know, the microorganisms or eggs or so
15 forth, do we have any data that shows that it has
16 worked?

17 MR. WETHINGTON: There's a lot of good
18 evidence of that, and if we were to choose to further
19 develop that treatment train as part of a long-term
20 solution, we would certainly do the research and do
21 the testing, you know, bench-scale, field-scale
22 testing to ensure that what we put out there would be
23 effective.

24 MS. MEYER: And how long would that
25 take? Okay.

1 MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

2 MS. MEYER: Okay.

3 MR. WETHINGTON: It all --

4 MS. MEYER: I'm sorry.

5 MR. WETHINGTON: You know, it's very
6 difficult for us to kind of examine what specifically
7 -- if we were trying to do something on that, I mean,
8 18 months, a couple years is likely what it takes to
9 move something from laboratory scale to a bench-
10 scale, and then if you want to do a field test, that
11 may take longer to look at, you know, what kind of
12 permits do you need from the Environmental Protection
13 Agency or state agencies. I mean, one to three years
14 is probably a pretty safe estimate.

15 MS. MEYER: And I know that in the past
16 they talked about using UV for ballast water
17 treatment.

18 MR. WETHINGTON: Yes.

19 MS. MEYER: And maybe -- and I don't
20 remember off the top of my head, but maybe there's
21 some data out there to show how -- how accurate it
22 was.

23 MR. WETHINGTON: Absolutely.

24 MS. MEYER: Thank you.

25 MR. WETHINGTON: Thanks, Kristy.

1 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

2 I had [REDACTED] who had signed up.

3 I'm sorry, Cheryl, I'll get to --

4 [REDACTED]: My name is [REDACTED], the
5 ZIP code is 44072.

6 COLONEL DRUMMOND: [REDACTED], can you speak
7 closer to the mike, please?

8 [REDACTED]: Yes. That's better there?

9 My name is [REDACTED], the ZIP code is
10 44072, sort of a comment I've had with previous
11 interactions with the Corps, the comment and then
12 just some specifics on that.

13 I'll read it here: Based on its
14 lackadaisical approach to the indiscriminate feeling
15 of wetlands in Geauga County where I live, I am not
16 so sure the Army Corps should be entrusted to
17 supervise the -- this critical Great Lakes project.

18 Time after time in the past I've called
19 the branch in charge of Geauga County, it takes
20 several calls and leaving messages to get a response,
21 and then more calls to get a site visit, and then
22 there's no action.

23 The Corps is too busy with dams and
24 massive engineering projects to create their own --
25 that create their own severe environmental impact.

1 That's my general comment.

2 The specific event most relative to this
3 comment about -- occurred around 1998 to 2000 or so
4 when the wetland behind the then named Clark Gasoline
5 Station, 8247 Mayfield Road in Chesterland, Ohio,
6 44026 was filled in, backfilled with 8 to 10 or more
7 feet of rubble, the fill was dumped to the very edge
8 and in some cases directly into Griswold Creek which
9 runs along the edge of the property.

10 It took several phone calls, as detailed
11 above, and the Corps drive-by apparently
12 eventually was made but nothing happened. Subsequent
13 to this filling and other changes and insults to the
14 Griswold Creek watershed, flooding events have become
15 more frequent and severe in the Russell Township
16 portion of the watershed, which is south of the
17 Chesterland address given above.

18 More recently, about three years ago,
19 severe erosion resulted in Russell Township along
20 Griswold Creek following the Memorial Day severe rain
21 event that even made the 6:00 TV news.

22 Geauga County (inaudible) a source of at
23 least three rivers that flow into Lake Erie, its
24 rolling terrain consists of high and low areas with
25 many valley wetlands, and more and more discriminate

1 care is needed of these as development occurs slowly
2 in that county. But where's the Corps been? I mean,
3 in our own township we have meetings where developers
4 come and they refer to the Corps floodplain, but it's
5 often ignored.

6 I just wanted to say you need some more
7 -- some more local input, and I call on other
8 flooding and filling events I've seen throughout the
9 county since that period of time. That's just a
10 general comment.

11 Meetings like this, I guess, are a
12 start, but -- I mean, it's not all infrastructure,
13 it's going to take a lot of -- many, many
14 stakeholders, as stated here today, to solve this.
15 That was just a bad case with bad results.

16 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you.

17 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

18 [REDACTED]: What -- what is your
19 control of wetland filling in places like Geauga
20 County, which is the source of the Cuyahoga, the
21 Grand and these -- all rivers, we're sort of the
22 tabletop of the area. All the water flows from
23 there.

24 MR. WETHINGTON: Our regulatory
25 department does have regulatory, I guess, control of

1 dredging and filling, and I would refer your question
2 specifically to your local Corps of Engineers office
3 I apologize, sir, we're here to discuss
4 the -- the larger question of aquatic nuisance
5 species.

6 [REDACTED]: Yeah, but the -- the larger
7 question: Should you be entrusted with that?

8 MR. WETHINGTON: I appreciate your
9 comment. Thank you.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, sir.

12 Your turn at the microphone. So I'm
13 going to go one, two, three afterwards.
14 (Indicating.)

15 When you're ready, sir.

16 MR. GOUDREAU: Thank you. George
17 Goudreau, 44040.

18 Thank you for admitting that the Corps'
19 primary directive has been to build structures and
20 harbors and not has been -- not to be the biologist
21 or eco guardians, that has not been your charge and
22 you're being forced into that situation by some of
23 things you're going to do.

24 But saying that -- I'm -- I'm saying --
25 by the way, I'm speaking as an individual now, George

1 Goudreau, a boater, a fisherman, somebody that's been
2 on the water for his entire life, whose relatives
3 came from Upper Peninsula Michigan, and I enjoy
4 Canada -- our Canadian waters, as well as on Lake
5 Huron -- as well as the Michigan waters of Lake
6 Huron, somehow they're the same.

7 When the Native Americans were here,
8 which became known as Indians, and the -- and the
9 First Nation People, as they're called in Canada,
10 were here, they never wanted to own the land, but
11 they thought that they had to be -- they were the
12 stewards of the land. We are the stewards of the
13 land, that means water, that means earth, and that --
14 that is something that we have to consider whenever
15 we do anything.

16 I've -- you know, I've sat here and I --
17 because you're the Chicago Corps, not the Buffalo
18 Corps or Detroit, I know that you're based in Chicago
19 -- I was president of the U.S. Ski Association,
20 Central Division, and I was -- our office was in
21 Chicago, so I've been in and out of Chicago my entire
22 life -- adult life.

23 What concerns me is if you go
24 historically, and I like history, you go back to 18
25 -- the late 1890s and -- the political machine of

1 Chicago and Illinois are the ones that reversed
2 unilaterally the flow in the Chicago River, obviously
3 for health reasons, but they did it without the
4 approval of any of their regional partners, if you
5 would, because they didn't believe in partners at the
6 time, nor the federal government, and that whole
7 thing ended up in a lawsuit against the State of
8 Illinois by the seven surrounding states and was
9 handled by a Supreme Court decision in the '30s which
10 was a consent decree.

11 And the Chicago River may not travel
12 more out of the lake than 3,200 cubic feet per second
13 of water. Of that 3,200 cubic feet of water that
14 travels out of Lake Michigan, 5 to 7 -- only 5 to 7
15 percent statistically and seasonally are reverted to
16 the Chicago River, which is also known as the
17 Sanitary Ship Canal.

18 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

19 MR. GOUDREAU: The other 90 to 95
20 percent goes into the Chicago water inlet system.

21 So I guess I'm sitting here in
22 Cleveland, Ohio, or in Detroit, Michigan, or Duluth
23 Minnesota, and I really don't care specifically about
24 Chicago -- the Chicago canal. I consider it a Great
25 Lakes issue personally, and I hope you will look at

1 it disinterestedly as that, and I know the
2 politicians are very strong from that area. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you again, Mr.
5 Goudreau.

6 MR. SHIELDS: I'm Bob Shields, sorry,
7 ZIP 44100 is my home, work is 44115.

8 I come here wearing two hats. The first
9 one is chair of the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club,
10 and I -- we will be sending in our comments later,
11 written comments, but we endorse all the comments
12 that have been said here this evening, whether it's
13 from the congresswoman, the Attorney General, our
14 friends from the TWC or from OEC, a lot of the
15 smaller groups here, individuals, we, too, endorse
16 hydrologic separation, and we'll get into that in
17 greater detail.

18 What I do want to speak to right now,
19 though, is a sense of urgency. The Corps of
20 Engineers knows what to do, the Corps of Engineers
21 has proven this time and again, and this country also
22 knows what to do. We heard that eloquently from our
23 friend who mentioned that with regard to the man on
24 the moon under ten years. I believe the Corps of
25 Engineers built the Pentagon in, what, one year,

1 something like that. It is doable where there is a
2 will. The Corps of Engineers knows the -- knows the
3 situation, it has a mission. The Corps of Engineers
4 definitely knows how to execute, logistics is a
5 problem.

6 Now, I understand you are from Chicago,
7 but we know as officers that we have to take care of
8 our people. When you take care of your people, good
9 things happen. We don't put it that way in
10 leadership training, but we know that from experience
11 and in our hearts.

12 Your people are not Chicago, your people
13 are from Duluth, Minnesota to the west, to Messina,
14 New York in the east, the eight Great Lakes states
15 and two provinces, and I heard this a couple times
16 from TWC is that we have an additional 24 states. We
17 are all of your people, look after us, good things
18 will happen. That is the sense of urgency.

19 Now, I've heard also, "Well, we need to
20 get all of these people together." The other thing
21 that we do as leaders is we ask who can help, "What
22 are you going to do for us?" Let me throw that back
23 to you. The Sierra Club, what can we do to help?
24 I'll leave it at that.

25 MR. WETHINGTON: If I can take a second

1 to respond. I guess one thing that you or anyone
2 else can do is certainly come out to -- and raise
3 your voice tonight, as well as raise your voice with
4 your elected officials. I think that's a very strong
5 way to do it.

6 As you note, we are good at doing what
7 we are told to do. For the Corps of Engineers to do
8 anything, we need two things: We need authority,
9 which was given to us by our elected officials, by
10 Congress, and we need appropriations, or money. So
11 essentially that is how we get all of our business
12 done. We have existing -- we have authorities and we
13 have appropriations.

14 And another comment just as a side note,
15 we've heard from a couple folks that we're Chicago,
16 and I think that maybe I kind of unhinged us a little
17 bit when I was responding to the gentleman's question
18 about the regulatory department. I was merely
19 trying to direct him to the appropriate agency to
20 best answer it. I unfortunately can't answer it.

21 We are one Corps. We are one Corps of
22 Engineers. We have different district offices, but,
23 you know, here regionally we're under one division,
24 but we are one Corps of Engineers. They -- there
25 were over 19 different Corps offices that helped put

1 this report together stretching from Alaska District
2 all the way to Jacksonville District.

3 So there were over a hundred people who
4 touched this report in some sense. So we are by no
5 means parochial in the sense of it being Chicago. We
6 tried to approach this, you know, problem from a very
7 unbiased perspective and really appreciate all of
8 your input and all of your comments, and we -- we
9 completely understand where you are coming from. So
10 thank you.

11 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sir, when you're ready.

12 MR. ECKMAN: Thank you.

13 My name is Mark Eckman, my ZIP code is
14 44026, I'm a lifelong Ohio resident, and I wanted to
15 say that Lake Erie is part of our way of life here
16 and that it's a priceless jewel of a lake and we
17 should do all that we can to protect it.

18 You mentioned that with your report
19 being done, the responsibility is now the Department
20 of Natural Resources in each of the states, and I'm
21 wondering if the decisions about the Chicago shipping
22 canal will be made by the Illinois Department of
23 Natural Resources, and I wonder if they are -- should
24 really be entrusted with that decision. Is that my
25 understanding?

1 MR. GOSS: I may have misspoke. I
2 intended that to be directed at the other pathway
3 connections across the states, not the Chicago
4 waterway.

5 However, the State of Illinois is
6 responsible for the Illinois River, Chicago waterway,
7 and they are a very important local partner. So we
8 will be asking Illinois, Chicago, the water
9 reclamation district that manages the water systems
10 there and the canal system there to weigh in with
11 their recommendations, much like we're asking folks
12 in Cleveland to weigh in with their recommendations
13 and across all the rest of the states.

14 MR. ECKMAN: My question to you, sir --

15 MR. GOSS: We are -- we are not turning
16 the decisions over to Illinois or to Chicago, though.
17 So please do not misinterpret what I said.

18 MR. ECKMAN: Who can I, as a citizen,
19 put pressure on to ensure that the right decision is
20 made about the Chicago shipping canal?

21 MR. GOSS: As it was stated earlier,
22 that's why we have elected officials. There is no
23 one person that's going to make this decision.

24 MR. ECKMAN: Okay. So you're saying no
25 one?

1 MR. GOSS: We're in the midst of a
2 process of getting everyone's input. We want to
3 continue that for the next few weeks. We're looking
4 for some common ground from the interest groups, from
5 the states, from the communities, from everyone
6 interested here, and we'll try to make a
7 determination about the next step forward.

8 MR. ECKMAN: I can appreciate that. And
9 that being said I would just like to be -- I would
10 just like to say that, you know, this whole process
11 is very curious. You know, if oil was leaking into
12 our lake, there would not be a moment's hesitation to
13 fix the leak and purify our water. But this invasion
14 of Asian carp is much more insidious than oil, they
15 can get into our water and they can reproduce. And
16 once they get into Lake Erie and reproduce, they can
17 clog our water intake outlets, they will die in the
18 algae blooms, and these dreadful fish, up to 60
19 pounds each --

20 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thirty seconds.

21 MR. ECKMAN: -- will wash up on our
22 shore, they will destroy our boating industry. As
23 Marcy Kaptur said, it's the third largest boating
24 industry in the country. They will destroy our
25 recreational fishing industry, and I'm very fretful

1 and quite worried about what's going to happen when
2 these fish get in.

3 And also that the -- the \$18 billion to
4 prevent this is such a tiny fraction of the cost of
5 the damage they will cause. And just one more short
6 comment, that the \$18 billion is a tiny, tiny
7 fraction of 1 percent of what this government spends
8 annually. So in that case, the cost looks completely
9 reasonable, and I -- I fail to understand why no one
10 would move forward with separating these watersheds
11 immediately. I don't understand it.

12 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

13 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir.

14 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Mr. Dabson, we have
15 another man in front of you, but is there anyone else
16 that --

17 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Down here.

18 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: Let him go first
19 and I have a comment at the end.

20 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Okay.

21 MR. YANDEK: Ed Yandek again, 44118.
22 I'll be quick. Two questions really and I'll sit
23 down so I can get your answers.

24 Procedurally again, other agencies have
25 been involved at the federal level, typically after a

1 hearing like this or looking for comments. There's a
2 way that we can go on and see all the comments from
3 all of the people from other regions as well as our
4 own. I'd like someone to address how we do that and
5 when that would be available, and, secondly, is it
6 possible to get the summary slides that you gentleman
7 presented here tonight? I thought they were very
8 good, I think they can be shared -- we can share them
9 with other people. I assume they're a PowerPoint
10 somewhere that we can download.

11 And then the other question I have would
12 be: Based on the reading I've done so far, I admit I
13 haven't read every single page, am I wrong in my
14 assumption that the -- that the solutions you've been
15 proposing so far retained the functionality of what
16 would be important to Chicago, including the use of
17 the waterway for commercial purposes?

18 I didn't see anything in your
19 recommendations that indicated even the most extreme
20 hydrological separation would be an immediate serious
21 issue for the commercial navigation people in the
22 Chicago area, if you could talk to that.

23 MR. WETHINGTON: Absolutely. It's Ed,
24 correct?

25 MR. YANDEK: Yes.

1 MR. WETHINGTON: Well, Ed, thank you for
2 your comments. I'll take the easy ones first.

3 The slides that we have produced today,
4 displayed today we will have up on our website. It's
5 actually something that just kind of came to my
6 attention, they weren't up there. So if you go to
7 that website, the GLMRIS.anl.gov, you should be able
8 to go onto the GLMRIS report page and then download
9 the slides as a -- probably the PDF will be the --
10 the simplest way.

11 Pertaining to these comments, we have a
12 court reporter, stenographer here today who is
13 recording everything that everyone says, and we will
14 receive that information, go through the process of
15 making sure it's correct technically, I guess, and
16 then post that information on our website. It will
17 probably take at least a month in order to get those
18 final transcripts up there, and then we'll also have
19 a report, we're going to put together a summary of
20 what we heard in general at these various meetings,
21 and we hope to use that summary as another piece of
22 information for decision-makers.

23 So we'll be able to kind of capture,
24 memorialize what we've all heard today, as well as in
25 the other cities.

1 The functionality of the waterway with
2 hydrologic separation would be impacted. There would
3 be significant impacts to navigation. If you have a
4 physical barrier in the waterway, navigation cannot
5 continue as it does today. So perhaps it's something
6 that you haven't had a chance to read through just
7 yet, but there are other alternatives to try and
8 maintain that functionality.

9 We looked at the three primary uses of
10 the system, navigation, water conveyance, water
11 quality and flood-risk management, and so we tried to
12 maintain those uses while trying to achieve that goal
13 of aquatic nuisance species control or prevention.

14 And so in a scenario such as hydrologic
15 separation, you do have a lot of compromises for
16 those existing uses. Navigation essentially goes
17 away. A lot of materials that would normally be
18 moved on the Chicago waterway via barge would likely
19 be moved via rail or via truck.

20 Flood-risk management would be
21 compromised, but that's why we are recommending in
22 that particular alternative to construct that tunnel
23 and conveyance infrastructure, same thing for water
24 quality, whether it's sediment remediation or capture
25 of combined sewer outfalls just to ensure that we

1 protect those significant natural resources, not for
2 any new benefits but just to at least maintain what
3 we have today.

4 MR. ZABOROWSKI: I saw Mr. Dennison,
5 then Congresswoman, and then, ma'am, if you're ready
6 to go after, if everyone is okay with that order.

7 Mr. Dabson?

8 MR. DABSON: Okay. I had mentioned --

9 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Sorry. Name and ZIP
10 code.

11 MR. DABSON: I am Dean Dabson, 44060.

12 I had mentioned, you know, the Canadian
13 system --

14 COLONEL DRUMMOND: You're going to have
15 to speak into the microphone.

16 MR. DABSON: Okay. It was turned down.
17 Sorry.

18 I had mentioned the Canadian system and
19 I also had mentioned the Eurasian system of bypass.
20 If -- if you put a separation in as far as getting,
21 you know, the shipping that -- that's vital to that
22 area, and the Supreme Court ruled you can't interfere
23 with that shipping.

24 Now, when I had talked to various people
25 -- I'm not saying, you know, which people, because

1 you have to deal with them, but I -- over the past
2 three years they have talked about, "Well, you can't
3 use the word 'Russia,' you have to find some other
4 word because that's not going to be palatable in
5 Congress." So I came up with your Eurasian.

6 Also, you know, they said, "Well,
7 Canada, well," you know, "isn't there anything in the
8 United States that's like this?" and I had to say
9 "No," you know. So you're -- you get into all of
10 these really strange attitudes that I thought we were
11 past those, but apparently we're not. So just be
12 prepared.

13 And, you know, three years has gone by
14 since I talked about this at Great Lakes when they
15 had the last, you know, major Army Corps talk there,
16 and three years has gone by.

17 Now, the Belgian -- one of the Belgian
18 systems, I think it took about -- anywhere from four
19 to six years to -- to complete. So three years has
20 gone by already if you were going to put one of these
21 systems in which would allow for, you know, a
22 closure. And -- so the longer we delay this, the --
23 the worse it's going to get.

24 And now this particular system I looked
25 at to handle one barge -- one tug, nine barges at a

1 time would be about a \$1.9 billion project. Okay.
2 If you only did one -- push one barge through at a
3 time, it would be approximately 2 to 300 million, and
4 the cost of our bridge over here, 600 million, just
5 to give you by comparison.

6 So these things -- these things are
7 doable, but you run into all of these roadblocks,
8 and, you know, you just have to be aware that these
9 things do exist, and that was my purpose of getting
10 involved. And I -- I want to thank Colonel Drummond
11 personally because he's really -- he really inspires
12 confidence because he really wants to get this job
13 done, but you have to realize that the politicians
14 are where a lot of these roadblocks are coming about,
15 whether in Chicago or in the Congress, and those are
16 the people we have to get to.

17 So I'm really happy that we have a
18 congresswoman here tonight that has a reputation for
19 getting things done, and, again, that's the cost.

20 Now, the other gentleman that spoke was
21 a young guy, and I hear this a lot from young people,
22 but very gung-ho on making profit, and, you know, why
23 can't we just fish these things out. Well, it would
24 take --

25 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Come to a complete

1 statement, please.

2 MR. DABSON: It would take large
3 trawlers with large nets to engage in that kind of
4 fishing, and that's a factory-fishing model, and this
5 is the type of thing that destroys the character of
6 -- of our Great Lakes, which is the charter captains.
7 So thank you.

8 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you.

9 So it is currently, let's see, 6:55. I
10 have -- two people have indicated that they would
11 like to speak and we're scheduled to run to 7. As of
12 right now, we'll ask those two people to come speak
13 and then -- yes, and then we'll ask the panel for
14 closing comments.

15 Congresswoman, if you'd like to come up,
16 and then so I don't cut you off, name and ZIP code,
17 please.

18 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: Congresswoman
19 Kaptur, I'm going to use the same one which is
20 probably wrong, 22315, but it's the Rayburn Building
21 in Washington, which belongs to you, not to me.

22 Let me just ask the Colonel: How far
23 from the electronic barrier are the fish now, the
24 Asian carp? I was told in Washington about a month
25 ago they're about 30 miles; is that true?

1 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Yeah. I'd like to
2 characterize it from Lake Michigan, I think that it
3 would help a little bit, then I can touch on it from
4 the barrier itself.

5 From Lake Michigan 131 miles down is the
6 small fish. So the larvae, the eggs. Approximately
7 about 55 miles down is what we call the leading edge,
8 the front edge of the bigger sized carp. One thing
9 that's been unique and over the last six years we
10 have not seen any substantial movement at all of the
11 leading edge of the Asian carp.

12 Now, there can be a whole bunch of
13 different reasons. Dave talked a little bit about it
14 could be because of the design of the canal. There's
15 some ongoing studies, not only with the Corps, but as
16 well as the DNR that's taking a hard look at that.
17 Haven't quite figured out what that is, but we're --
18 we're studying that.

19 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: Does anyone in
20 any of the DNRs from the various states or do you
21 have an actual mapping of the volume -- your
22 estimates of volume from fish from Mississippi on up?

23 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Yep, we have a map,
24 and I think we can probably get that to you.

25 CONGRESSWOMAN KAPTUR: Right. I didn't

1 know if that was in your slide show or not. I wasn't
2 present for the slide show, but I think we would be
3 interested in that so we get a sense of numbers and
4 rate of passage north.

5 Second point, one of the witnesses here,
6 one of the -- mentioned the political and commercial
7 interests in Illinois. There's a great book called
8 "Rivers of Grain," and I don't think I'm incorrect in
9 my impression that from Minnesota, from the Red River
10 Valley, all the grain that moves down the Mississippi
11 to New Orleans is carried somehow. And it would be
12 very interesting to look at that volume, because I
13 feel politically, based on meetings I've been
14 involved in in Washington, that that is really what
15 we're up against, and it is one of the reasons that
16 this is progressing slowly, and it's a very powerful
17 force.

18 And I mentioned it because if we're
19 going to solve the ecological problem, we have to
20 understand the magnitude of that. So if you have
21 figures for shipping volumes down the Mississippi,
22 that would be very -- I think very interesting, from
23 points north all the way down through Chicago and --
24 and south, because I've heard criticisms of some of
25 the mechanisms that would lift the ships and then

1 move them to another channel as interrupting that
2 trade. So I just wanted to make that request if --
3 if that is available.

4 And then, finally, I just wanted to
5 develop a little bit more if I could very quickly,
6 give me 15 extra seconds if you can, if you think
7 about the money -- because I'm looking for the
8 structure for this part of America that could rival
9 what I see existing in other places in our country.
10 And if I look at the \$1.1 billion that goes to the
11 Bureau of Reclamation annually, that is only a small
12 part of the funds they have to expend, because they
13 have worked on arrangements with local water systems
14 when -- these water contracts are how they make their
15 money.

16 So that 1.1 billion is augmented by
17 water contracts and -- with a whole variety of users,
18 municipalities, agricultural interests, et cetera,
19 and the financing of some of that is most interesting
20 because they use the federal funds rate over a
21 hundred years, we're trying to get a cost accounting
22 of that so we can share it with the Corps.

23 As we look for a new management model
24 for the Great Lakes, for this project and perhaps
25 others -- because we have more combined sewer

1 overflows here than any other part of the country,
2 not just in the Cleveland area, but in the Great
3 Lakes in general.

4 So we have to find a financing
5 mechanism, and if I compared the Bureau of
6 Reclamation to the St. Lawrence Seaway Development
7 Corporation, which is the only development
8 corporation we have that is an umbrella over this
9 region, their annual appropriation is \$30 million,
10 and they have none of the instrumentalities -- the
11 management instrumentalities, the funding
12 instrumentalities that exist in the other -- for the
13 other 17 states in the west.

14 So I'm saying this because there are
15 many intelligent people here today. We need to study
16 that and we need to think -- there are a couple
17 lawyers that spoke that were just brilliant.
18 We need to think about how we now, in this
19 millennium, develop that umbrella for the St.
20 Lawrence Seaway System, which is a binational system
21 and how we use the mechanisms and modernize the
22 mechanisms that we have to meet some of the
23 challenges that are quite serious.

24 In Chicago we might have to build
25 another channel. My gosh, in California they got two

1 aqueduct systems that are serving that state financed
2 in different ways and they managed to work out the
3 contracting over many years.

4 So I thank you for -- for listening.

5 But I think that is one of our biggest challenges.

6 It's a -- it's a management challenge that needs an
7 instrumentality through which to do everything that
8 we would hope to do working with you.

9 So I thank you for your time and I thank
10 everyone who has come here today and thank you for
11 giving me an extra 15 seconds.

12 MR. ZABOROWSKI: You get the dubious
13 distinction of going last.

14 MS. RAINKEY: Joyce Rainkey (phonetic
15 spelling) 44118.

16 One of you mentioned that there are
17 decision-makers who will decide this, and I would
18 like to know, besides the citizens and state and
19 federal representatives, who these decision-makers
20 are in the Corps and other organizations that are
21 going to make these decisions.

22 MR. WETHINGTON: Ultimately decisions
23 are made by our elected officials with regard to
24 specifically how the Corps of Engineers does our
25 business. As I explained a little bit earlier, we

1 need two things in order to proceed on any project.
2 As the Corps of Engineers organization, we need
3 authority, and that comes from Congress, and we need
4 appropriations, which, again, come from Congress. So
5 those are, for the Corps of Engineers specifically,
6 the ultimate decision-makers.

7 MS. RAINKEY: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, ma'am.

9 Wow. Okay. I would like to thank everyone that
10 came out here tonight and for all of your input. I
11 think --

12 MR. SHAW: Excuse me, Kendall.

13 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Yes.

14 MR. SHAW: She has one more.

15 MR. ZABOROWSKI: One more.

16 MS. KAPTUR: Too many things.

17 MR. ZABOROWSKI: You know what I'm going
18 to say, right?

19 MS. KAPTUR: The correct ZIP code is
20 20515, but I thought I should mention in the
21 Congress, in the House, the gentleman who heads the
22 WRDA committee on the Republican side of the aisle is
23 Bob Gibbs from Ohio.

24 Bob and I have talked about traveling --
25 I had on my side of the aisle the Energy and Water

1 Committee, and I've talked to the Republican on my
2 committee who handles the appropriations, Mike
3 Simpson of Idaho, who I'm not sure's ever been to the
4 Great Lakes, but I've gotten him to agree to land in
5 Chicago, and Bob Gibbs wants to take his committee
6 there. So if we take both committees there, and
7 maybe the Corps helps us arrange that, you'd have the
8 two key committees in the Congress that deal with
9 this issue and the whole Great Lakes. Okay?

10 So -- and we need to have the Great
11 Lakes Restoration Initiative, the gentleman that has
12 that, Cam Davis, he's got to be a part of all this,
13 because we need an interagency working group at the
14 federal level to handle the magnitude of what we are
15 talking about here and try to ameliorate the problems
16 inside the Illinois delegation if we start tampering
17 with things inside of Chicago and the State of
18 Illinois.

19 It's quite complicated, but at least we
20 have some of the chairmen lined up. Okay? And -- so
21 we're already talking, we're trying to figure this
22 out. The great news as I said to Bob Gibbs, I said,
23 "Hey, Bob, we can't wait five years for a WRDA bill."
24 I said, "This is too serious, we've got to move
25 quickly."

1 He said, "Marcy, I've got authority. I
2 can do a bill every year."

3 So he was even willing -- so Bob Gibbs
4 is a good person for you all to talk to if you
5 haven't done that yet. And -- so the chairmen are
6 thinking with us, we just need to push them in that
7 direction. Okay?

8 MALE SPEAKER: You go, girl.

9 MR. ZABOROWSKI: All right. Thank you
10 again, Congresswoman.

11 At this point I'd like to ask the panel
12 if they have any additional comments for tonight's
13 audience.

14 COLONEL DRUMMOND: Well, first of all,
15 Congress -- Congresswoman Kaptur, thank you, ma'am,
16 thank you for coming out here and helping us. You
17 certainly provide due diligence to the whole process.

18 I think you all -- you know, it's --
19 it's evident to me, I -- I sit back here and I told
20 you at the beginning I was going to listen. I did
21 that. There was a lot of critical information. I
22 applaud each and every individual in here because you
23 have talked everything about the history, 37 mile
24 sanitary/ship canal, you understand what you're
25 talking about, and that says a lot to me and the

1 individuals that are here in the room with me.

2 I might add that in the beginning I said
3 there was 19 different district offices involved,
4 Dave had mentioned all the way from Seattle all the
5 way down to Jacksonville, who is intimately involved
6 in the Everglades.

7 I just wanted to highlight a few things.
8 You know, the unique thing about being a uniform
9 military guy is I get to see a lot, 32 years of being
10 around, and there's a few things I -- I want to
11 mention. One, this is probably the flattest
12 organization that I've seen over time. Working with
13 John Goss and the ACRCC in the last two years was
14 absolutely critical in helping deliver this. Great
15 Lakes Initiative, GR (inaudible) all of that was
16 absolutely essential in this.

17 So it is working, it is very difficult,
18 it is very complex. We understand the need and the
19 criticality of moving this ahead. We're hearing it
20 firsthand from everybody.

21 You know, our goal, you heard early on
22 it's about preventing, you know, and our job is to
23 prevent the risk to the maximum extent possible.

24 Lastly, before I move on, as I walked
25 around in my building, which is, yes, I'm on the 16th

1 floor, this one gentleman had mentioned earlier, I
2 will attest that the individuals working on this
3 project, Dave Wethington to the left of me, is -- and
4 many others, they live -- their kids, like my kids,
5 swim in Lake Michigan and we have the same exact
6 passion as you do.

7 Every day I walk into my office and Dave
8 is tugging on me for one reason or another trying to
9 get us to move ahead and try to do the right thing.
10 This is a very, very -- as Ms. Kaptur had mentioned,
11 a very complex dilemma, but I think we have it within
12 our resolve in the next couple of months to come to
13 some very good discussion points to try to move this
14 ahead.

15 And so with that I appreciate everybody
16 coming out tonight. We -- your voice is important.
17 The ASA, Ms. Darcy, in Chicago the other day looked
18 at everybody and said, "It's" -- "it's your voice
19 that we need to hear from." And so thank you very
20 much for coming out here and being patient as we work
21 through this process.

22 Dave, do you have any other --

23 MR. WETHINGTON: Thank you, sir, I
24 appreciate it. I appreciate everyone coming out
25 tonight and look forward to continuing to work with

1 all of you as we try and move this -- this forward.

2 MR. ZABOROWSKI: Thank you, panel.

3 MR. GOSS: Thanks everyone. We've had
4 36 individual comments tonight for approximately 180
5 minutes of testimony from all of you. So I'd like to
6 thank you all for that.

7 And I'd like to remind everyone that our
8 public comment period runs until March 3rd of this
9 year. If there's anything that you didn't get a
10 chance to say, you can mail something to us to our
11 office, you can go to our website and submit comments
12 that way, or if you have written something down on a
13 yellow comment form, you know, drop it off with one
14 of us before you leave.

15 If you didn't receive a copy of meeting
16 materials or if you would like an extra copy, feel
17 free to grab some on your way out, and at that point
18 this concludes this public meeting for the Great
19 Lakes and Mississippi River Basin study. Time is now
20 7:08.

21 (Thereupon, the hearing was
22 concluded at 7:08 o'clock p.m.)

23 - - -

24

25

1 CERTIFICATE

2

3 I, Carina C. Meszaros, RMR, do hereby certify
4 that as such Reporter I took down in Stenotypy all of
5 the proceedings had in the foregoing transcript; that
6 I have transcribed my said Stenotype notes into
7 typewritten form as appears in the foregoing
8 transcript; that said transcript is the complete form
9 of the proceedings had in said cause and constitutes
10 a true and correct transcript therein.

11

12

13

14 Carina C. Meszaros, RMR
15 Within and for the State of Ohio

16

17

18 My commission expires March 11, 2014.

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Page 1

<u> \$ </u>	17 90:25 91:4 93:1	24 19:24 127:16	121:6 129:14
\$1 94:24 100:12	143:13	25 14:22 15:8 35:9	44040 68:24
\$1.1 91:5 142:10	17,000 54:13	37:10 56:14	123:17
\$1.9 138:1	18 8:22 15:25	65:16 72:5 76:11	44060 56:9 59:5
\$11 61:2	17:22,23 18:5,8	85:14,22	87:18 136:11
\$11.5 101:4	19:22 85:21	25-page 16:18	44072 120:5,10
\$15 76:9 94:22	86:20	25-year 71:4	44089 75:11
\$15.1 36:5	111:12,24,25	<u> 3 </u>	44100 126:7
\$15.5 35:9	112:24 119:8	3 26:19	44105 71:16
\$18 55:5 85:20	124:24	3,200 125:12,13	44107 95:12
86:23 132:3,6	180 150:4	30 42:1,2 139:25	44111 110:18
\$20 82:4	1800s 32:22	30,000 81:10	44114 1:10
\$30 88:3 143:9	1890s 124:25	300 81:8 138:3	44115 126:7
\$300 10:9	19 13:10 128:25	300-foot 89:19	44118 75:11
\$40 54:9	148:3	30s 125:9	132:21 144:15
\$7 51:19	1902 90:25	30-year 104:17	44122 77:4 101:25
\$856,000 102:3	1950s 9:24	32 51:3 108:20	44135 93:9
<u> 1 </u>	1998 121:3	148:9	44141 83:7
1 24:8,9,10,14	<u> 2 </u>	325 1:10	44839 104:16
75:25 132:7	2 25:13 51:3	35 22:6	44846 99:6
1,500 17:3 111:9	108:20 138:3	36 150:4	48230 80:7
1,800 89:18	20 28:15 76:10	37 147:23	<u> 5 </u>
1.1 142:16	81:9 86:2	3rd 5:9,25 150:8	5 31:18 117:2
1.5 54:12	200 22:5 94:3	<u> 4 </u>	125:14
10 76:1 94:2 121:6	2000 121:3	4 72:10	5,000 105:15
10,000 15:5	2005 45:4	4.8 100:8	5.1 100:6
11 151:17	2006 45:4	4:04 1:8	50 28:15 47:20
12,000 106:7	2007 60:5	40 34:9 69:14	75:16 76:1
13 12:17 15:13	2009 17:15	43017 47:12 50:14	50,000 7:12 8:5
22:4 51:25	200-foot 89:14	108:1	50-mile 8:4
131 140:5	2012 17:19,23	43212 53:20	55 140:7
14 15:2	2013 99:22	114:21	552 57:15
14th 88:5	2014 1:7 8:24	43452 99:6	<u> 6 </u>
15 29:1 41:23	17:24 114:5	43805 85:6	6 72:6
59:11 82:21	151:17	44 56:2 114:18	6,000 105:15 106:4
142:6 144:11	20515 145:20	44022 73:15	6:00 121:21
16 1:7	20-pound 94:2	44024 61:14	6:55 139:9
16th 148:25	22315 65:1 139:20	44026 47:10 107:2	
	232 15:1,8		

Capital Reporting Company
Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study Public Meeting 01-16-2014
Page 2

<p>60 10:18 131:18</p> <p>600 34:4 88:3 138:4</p> <p>65 18:25</p> <p>6th 12:12 14:17 17:23,24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>7 6:6 125:14 139:11</p> <p>7,000 14:18</p> <p>7:00 87:3</p> <p>7:08 150:20,22</p> <p>700 34:4</p> <p>721 99:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>8 121:6</p> <p>8247 121:5</p> <p>85 18:25</p> <p>856,474 99:23</p> <p>88 101:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>9.1 11:21 19:7</p> <p>9.2 19:8</p> <p>90 22:13 48:24 60:8 125:19</p> <p>900,000 107:18</p> <p>95 62:19 84:11 125:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <hr/> <p>ability 19:14</p> <p>able 21:4,11 33:4 39:24 40:22 42:17 51:1 52:13 57:2 60:21,22 61:25 63:2 79:21 80:12 134:7,23</p> <p>absolutely 64:17 65:4 71:20 92:7</p>	<p>119:23 133:23 148:14,16</p> <p>abstract 80:18</p> <p>abundant 65:6</p> <p>accept 58:17</p> <p>acceptable 74:14</p> <p>accepted 118:5</p> <p>accompanied 15:23</p> <p>accomplish 5:3 10:6</p> <p>accomplished 24:25 110:1</p> <p>According 99:21</p> <p>account 27:10</p> <p>accountant 77:3</p> <p>accounting 142:21</p> <p>accumulate 78:13</p> <p>accumulated 78:1</p> <p>accurate 119:21</p> <p>accurately 43:9</p> <p>achieve 25:10 38:15 49:24 52:16 135:12</p> <p>achieved 12:7</p> <p>achievement 12:9</p> <p>acquisitions 77:11</p> <p>ACRCC 148:13</p> <p>across 13:10 51:2 116:8 130:3,13</p> <p>act 63:23,24</p> <p>action 24:16,17,19 54:24 62:3,23 65:16,18 66:4 74:15 93:16 109:23 120:22</p> <p>active 6:17 25:17</p> <p>actively 70:18</p> <p>activities 24:17 25:5 69:18</p>	<p>100:14,18</p> <p>activity 25:23 52:23</p> <p>acts 19:3</p> <p>actual 140:21</p> <p>actually 22:5 27:6 39:9 46:19 53:13 55:8,17 56:21,24,25 93:24 95:8 113:17 114:14 117:6 134:5</p> <p>adaptable 13:20 96:25</p> <p>adaptive 38:13</p> <p>add 13:12 34:23 148:2</p> <p>adding 39:9,10</p> <p>addition 56:9</p> <p>additional 7:22 21:9 23:14 25:9,10 39:9,10 41:5 85:17 102:3 113:22 114:7 127:16 147:12</p> <p>address 14:3 40:9 41:4 48:10 62:5 75:20 79:11 114:22 121:17 133:4</p> <p>addressed 48:9 111:4</p> <p>addresses 48:21</p> <p>addressing 27:23 65:25 112:16</p> <p>adds 91:10 100:8</p> <p>adequately 48:13</p> <p>adjacent 19:19 26:5 29:10,14 30:11 31:21 57:18</p> <p>administration 60:23 88:14</p>	<p>administrator 92:22</p> <p>admit 116:12 133:12</p> <p>admitting 123:18</p> <p>adult 124:22</p> <p>advance 43:11 77:20 78:12 113:3,5</p> <p>advances 34:19</p> <p>advantage 65:7</p> <p>adverse 20:15 35:7 37:4,14,15</p> <p>Advisory 59:10 68:15</p> <p>advocate 83:15,20</p> <p>affected 49:4</p> <p>affiliations 69:7</p> <p>afford 67:3 75:4</p> <p>afforded 59:20</p> <p>afternoon 2:3 11:16 64:13</p> <p>afterwards 123:13</p> <p>against 62:25 106:6,17 125:7 141:15</p> <p>agencies 6:15 13:24 14:13 21:20 36:12 60:14,15 97:21 98:23 103:5,8,9 109:15 112:21 119:13 132:24</p> <p>agency 96:25 119:13 128:19</p> <p>agenda 3:2</p> <p>agendas 6:2</p> <p>aggressive 76:4</p> <p>ago 48:2 90:25 91:22 93:1 114:1 121:18 139:25</p> <p>agreement 11:10</p>
--	---	--	---

109:15 agricultural 53:18 142:18 ahead 53:11 86:20 148:19 149:9,14 air 53:22 AIS 51:24 52:1,3,6,13 aisle 90:21 145:22,25 aisles 42:9 Akron 92:24 alas 65:24 Alaska 129:1 algae 105:6 117:17 131:18 algal 65:14 alive 91:14,15 alleviate 28:22 32:15 33:4 Alliance 56:8 59:8,9 73:17,23 allocating 78:24 allow 14:15 28:6 32:3 40:19 41:8 49:15 137:21 allowed 31:25 62:10 allowing 11:24 44:9 67:24 allows 74:13 alone 65:19 92:18 107:15 alongside 14:14 already 3:7 10:1 62:18 74:21 87:4,10 109:7 137:20 146:21 alternately 54:24 alternative 10:21 20:23 21:6	24:7,9,10,14,18 25:7,13 26:19 27:3 28:10,25 31:6,17 35:6,20 38:14 46:15,17 72:6,10 135:22 alternatives 10:25 13:2,5,7 15:15 16:15 17:10 18:18 20:10,19 21:5,8 23:1,2 24:6,13 25:9,14 26:10,18,20 29:6 31:19 33:7 35:11 36:15,18 37:3,8,18 38:12,25 45:22 52:21 72:19 82:3,5 135:7 am 6:12 73:17 84:23 92:6 105:11,20 120:15 133:13 136:11 amateur 81:20 amazing 45:18 ameliorate 146:15 America 92:13 93:2 142:8 American 100:10 Americans 124:7 among 13:1 14:12 21:4 39:3 67:12 amount 13:14 21:6 24:22 34:24 78:16 91:5 amounts 100:23 analysis 21:21 75:17 105:25 analyzed 32:13 Angeles 92:11 angler 83:7 anglers 99:25 100:13	animal 37:24 animals 81:22 announced 39:9 annual 34:1 143:9 annually 51:14 100:12 132:8 142:11 ANS 12:9,16,22 15:19 30:16 31:11 71:22 81:18 answer 39:24 40:21 96:6 108:8,9 110:22 128:20 answers 132:23 anticipated 34:20 anybody 84:17 93:24 anyone 86:25 87:4 128:1 132:15 140:19 anything 2:14 5:21 63:9 77:1 88:16 109:16 111:4 113:15 117:16 124:15 128:8 133:18 137:7 150:9 anywhere 34:25 103:23 137:18 Apart 14:2 apologize 43:11 53:5 61:9 77:19 78:12 84:21 90:10 116:15 123:3 apparently 121:11 137:11 APPEARANCES 1:13 appeared 48:1 appears 151:7	appendices 15:3,4 appetites 81:18 applaud 147:22 applicable 13:25 20:23 application 21:15 22:14 applications 7:24 applied 20:11 apply 28:5 44:4 applying 25:18 27:4 35:24 appreciate 11:8,15 44:9 46:14 49:25 55:14 60:13 98:11 103:1 109:24 111:7 123:8 129:7 131:8 149:15,24 approach 85:11 120:14 129:6 appropriate 22:18 107:8 108:12 128:19 appropriated 91:5 appropriately 32:8 33:15 appropriation 143:9 appropriations 128:10,13 145:4 146:2 approval 125:4 approved 8:9 10:9 approximately 32:21 33:1 34:9 36:5 37:12,13 138:3 140:6 150:4 aquatic 3:14 12:8,15,23 13:16 14:10 15:13 16:23,25 17:6
---	--	--	---

18:3,9 19:22 20:1,12 22:15 23:24 24:3,21,24 25:18 26:14 27:14,17,19 28:8 29:25 30:2,13,16 37:19,20,22 38:21 50:25 54:18 74:17 96:7,10,19 112:9 116:16,21 117:1,25 123:4 135:13 aqueduct 91:13 144:1 architects 47:22 area 4:7,17,19 7:12,13 11:20 17:9 18:1,13,16,24 19:2,7,10,13,18, 20 20:3 22:2 28:12,23 29:19 30:5 35:15 37:15 39:14 51:23 100:21 101:14 102:13 107:22 111:12 112:3,10,18 122:22 126:2 133:22 136:22 143:2 areas 8:1 9:11 25:20 91:22 102:5 111:1 112:12 121:24 aren't 18:23 30:24 112:13 argue 25:25 argument 58:17 89:22 arms 105:2 Army 2:4 3:16 4:1,4 5:7 44:8 67:20 120:16 137:15	arrange 146:7 arrangements 142:13 arrival 80:22 arrived 2:25 ASA 149:17 ascending 57:25 Asian 6:20,21,25 7:13,25 8:2,5 10:12 12:16 13:17 14:4 25:1 45:5 46:8 48:8,25 49:2,14,17 50:24 51:18 52:8 59:22 60:4,7,16,18 62:5,9 65:14 66:5,21 70:9,19,21,24 74:12 84:12 93:18 107:12,17,24 115:16 131:14 139:24 140:11 aside 79:3 assert 81:21 assessed 113:10 assessing 77:22 assessment 22:8 51:25 113:19 assessments 113:5,25 assist 70:13 associated 28:24 29:2 31:24 78:10,18 Association 68:18 69:4,11 100:10 124:19 associations 69:17 assume 133:9 assumes 77:8,9 assuming 76:15	assumption 133:14 attached 66:18 attachment 78:16 attending 12:5 attention 63:25 65:16 134:6 attest 149:2 attitudes 137:10 attorney 12:3 44:2,6,7,10,17 46:20 54:2,21 126:13 audience 94:12 95:15 147:13 augmented 142:16 authorities 13:25 14:15 128:12 authority 128:8 145:3 147:1 authorization 20:25 authorize 103:13 authorized 60:5 111:14 Auxiliary 56:13 availability 13:25 65:6 available 12:21 16:23 22:12,18 114:16 133:5 142:3 Avenue 1:10 avenues 15:10 average 45:18 avian 37:24 avoid 71:21 82:10 aware 109:22 138:8 away 3:23 19:4,12 79:17 135:17	awe 92:7 awesome 105:4 awful 85:21 <hr/> B <hr/> backfilled 121:6 background 22:23 77:2 backgrounds 13:12 bad 26:3 95:16 98:1 104:22 105:5 122:15 Bailey 87:25 bait 26:2 37:24 97:24,25 balance 80:18 bald 81:11 104:25 105:3 ballast 119:16 Band-Aid 60:19 bank 87:24 88:2 89:4 banks 88:21 94:21 banners 15:16 26:24 barge 57:10,13 89:16,19,23 135:18 137:25 138:2 barges 57:21,24 89:10,11,14,18 137:25 barrier 7:6,11,12,14,22 8:4,7 23:6 25:3 32:5 33:14,21 35:16,18,21,24 57:5 74:11,13 89:15 135:4 139:23 140:4 barriers 7:5,7 14:6 22:14
--	---	---	--

<p>23:12,16,21 28:6 30:4,21,23 31:20,25 32:2,14,20 33:18 58:13 63:3 67:8 96:22</p> <p>Bartley 68:3 71:14,15 72:22</p> <p>based 23:15 27:24 53:20 73:23 99:22 120:13 124:18 133:12 141:13</p> <p>baseline 24:14 25:7</p> <p>basic 21:24</p> <p>basically 35:11,23 56:17 57:16</p> <p>basin 12:19,23 16:25 18:4 22:1 25:22 27:16 29:18 31:10 38:17,18 71:12 81:6 82:25 100:22 111:9,11,17 112:14 150:19</p> <p>basins 8:18 19:21 30:17 37:20 38:1,5,11 74:21</p> <p>basis 28:16</p> <p>bathrooms 2:18</p> <p>battle 44:19 67:20</p> <p>bay 55:2 69:10,13 81:15 82:19</p> <p>beach 59:17 105:9</p> <p>beaches 61:20</p> <p>beachline 102:15</p> <p>bear 50:4 81:4,15</p> <p>beat 95:15 98:12,14</p> <p>Beaudoin 4:6</p> <p>beautiful 81:9</p>	<p>82:8 101:17</p> <p>beauty 36:9</p> <p>became 80:19 124:8</p> <p>become 60:10 62:10 63:20 76:10 84:15 112:25 121:14</p> <p>becoming 80:18</p> <p>begin 6:3,5 47:15 78:20</p> <p>beginning 2:17 16:21 18:7 40:6 48:1 111:8 147:20 148:2</p> <p>behalf 48:10 53:23</p> <p>behind 17:2 18:4,20 24:5 25:17 26:24 46:16 89:3 95:8 121:4</p> <p>Belgian 137:17</p> <p>Belgium 89:11</p> <p>believe 9:3 30:1 38:22 39:8 46:9 47:2 49:11 61:1 63:6 71:4 91:18 95:8 99:1 107:7 117:3,4,20,24 125:5 126:24</p> <p>belongs 139:21</p> <p>bench 119:9</p> <p>bench-scale 118:21</p> <p>benefits 21:18 25:10 36:17 72:18 86:17 136:2</p> <p>besides 144:18</p> <p>best 5:21 8:17 10:22,23 20:4 26:5,8,16 42:8 53:2 66:4,10,20 97:2 108:16</p>	<p>109:9,13 114:3 128:20</p> <p>better 23:20 27:2 120:8</p> <p>Betty 92:23</p> <p>beyond 9:12 103:16</p> <p>bidirectional 27:8 29:7</p> <p>bigger 86:16 140:8</p> <p>biggest 144:5</p> <p>bighead 80:16,25</p> <p>bigheads 8:6</p> <p>bill 47:2,9,19 66:1 106:24 107:2,25 146:23 147:2</p> <p>billion 29:1 35:10 36:5 51:19 54:10,12 55:5 61:2 76:9 82:4 85:20,21,23,24 86:20,23 88:3 91:6 93:25 94:23,24 100:12 101:4 117:9 132:3,6 138:1 142:10,16</p> <p>binational 143:20</p> <p>binoculars 82:20</p> <p>biological 62:7 118:8</p> <p>biologically 62:6</p> <p>biologist 123:20</p> <p>biology 96:19</p> <p>biomass 60:9 62:19 84:11</p> <p>bipartisan 9:19 44:22</p> <p>birder 81:7</p> <p>birders 100:24</p> <p>birding 100:19,22</p> <p>birds 37:25</p>	<p>bit 16:13 18:1 26:22 27:2 39:12 68:6 92:20 94:24 96:18 113:14 114:11 128:17 140:3,13 142:5 144:25</p> <p>blasted 58:9</p> <p>block 7:9 9:2 30:23 73:1,7 76:20,22,24 77:6 101:25 103:20,23</p> <p>blocked 114:9</p> <p>blooms 65:14 131:18</p> <p>blow 78:21</p> <p>blue 3:13 43:2</p> <p>board 14:4 59:8,9,10</p> <p>boat 26:2,3 45:17 61:21 99:23</p> <p>boater 78:16 124:1</p> <p>boating 69:16 70:6 100:18 131:22,23</p> <p>boats 100:4</p> <p>Bob 88:8 104:15 126:6 145:23,24 146:5,22,23 147:3</p> <p>body 65:8 97:25 101:17</p> <p>boiling 22:16</p> <p>book 15:9 16:18 141:7</p> <p>booked 100:3</p> <p>bookended 28:5</p> <p>booklet 3:18</p> <p>books 16:17 24:10</p> <p>border 71:1 101:4,11</p>
--	---	--	--

Bostick 92:21	124:17	143:25	cargo 18:21
bottom 29:11	buffer 29:23,24 30:3,5,13	Cal-Sag 35:19,21 36:4	Carina 151:3,14
boundaries 71:11	bufflehead 82:12	Cam 146:12	carp 6:20,21,25 7:2,13,23 8:1,2,5 9:6 10:12 12:16 13:17 14:4 25:1,18 45:5 46:8 48:8 49:1,2,14,17 50:24 51:18 52:8 56:7 58:1,8 59:22 60:4,7,16,18 62:5,9 65:14,15 66:5,21 70:9,20,21,23,24 74:12 80:16,25 81:19 84:12 93:18,24 94:2 107:12,17,24 115:16,17 131:14 139:24 140:8,11
boundary 16:25	build 19:17 37:11 57:18 67:7,16 96:14 104:8 109:20 123:19 143:24	Canada 10:2 57:1 69:11 71:2 85:2 124:4,9 137:7	
branch 120:19	Builders 68:18 69:2,3	Canadian 124:4 136:12,18	
Brandon 29:12,17 72:10	building 25:16 28:17 47:23 79:2 90:13,14 96:22 109:15 139:20 148:25	canal 7:9 8:15 22:16 27:14 35:19,22 125:17,24 129:22 130:10,20 140:14 147:24	
breach 72:16	built 7:8 91:12 117:8 126:25	canals 23:22	
break 21:22 35:14 67:8	bunch 140:12	cannons 7:24 58:9	
breaking 40:1	Bunsey 104:15	canoe 61:22	
breasted 82:15	B-u-n-s-e-y 104:15	canvasbacks 81:11	
Brecksville 83:6	BUNSEY 104:14 106:13	cap 33:19	carried 141:11
breeding 62:12	Bureau 91:3,17 99:18 142:11 143:5	capability 77:10	carries 89:14
bridge 138:4	business 67:14 80:12 128:11 144:25	capital 99:8	Carson 81:25
brief 18:3	businesses 19:18 51:12 63:15	captain 69:9 83:9 95:11 106:9	cascade 81:21 82:9
briefly 108:4 115:24	busy 120:23	captains 99:23 100:3 139:6	case 24:22 27:6 33:3 34:18 108:13 122:15 132:8
brilliant 143:17	buy 35:25 72:11 89:21	capture 28:19 32:7 35:5 36:14 42:8 134:23 135:24	cases 121:8
bring 61:25 103:17	buy-in 53:1	captured 64:6	catastrophe 82:2
bringing 64:13	bypass 27:3,12 32:16 57:12 136:19	carbon 7:21	Catawba 69:10
brink 62:2	<hr/> C <hr/>	card 43:2,5,16,20,22	catch 94:2,9
broad 108:18	caissons 57:24	care 58:14 73:19 74:2 86:18 95:17 112:17 113:1,8 122:1 125:23 127:7,8	caught 35:13
broad-based 109:24	California 78:5 91:14 92:10	career 73:21	causality 106:1
brother 83:8 95:18 98:24		careful 115:2	cause 132:5 151:9
brought 96:21			caused 63:21 105:6
brown 17:2			causing 74:22
brownfields 92:3			CAWS 1:14 15:20 18:14 19:5
buckets 26:2 37:24 97:24,25			
bucks 94:3			
budget 8:9 10:10 66:17 90:20 91:9 95:22			
budgets 78:3 102:23			
Buffalo 4:7 91:20			

<p>52:6,7,14 cell 2:11 center 97:5 Central 124:20 certain 21:17,18 23:18,19 25:20 49:11 77:22 78:7 85:12 certainly 7:18 8:4 9:10,23 24:11,21 26:5,12 60:13,18 85:18 96:24 100:25 114:4 115:6 118:20 128:2 147:17 CERTIFICATE 151:1 certify 151:3 cetera 26:15 37:25 77:11 79:23 89:23 91:15 100:16 142:18 chain 59:24 chair 68:16,20 126:9 chairmen 146:20 147:5 challenge 67:6,23 90:18 144:6 challenges 91:21,24 143:23 144:5 Chamber 87:25 chance 41:14 95:25 135:6 150:10 change 41:23 60:12 72:2 81:13 changed 81:14 changes 69:18 104:21 121:13 channel 23:17,18 35:20,21 37:11</p>	<p>142:1 143:25 channels 30:22 Chapter 126:9 character 139:5 characterize 140:2 Chardon 61:13 charge 120:19 123:21 charter 99:23 100:3 139:6 chasing 95:19 cheap 67:1 check 62:15 Checking 87:2 checkpoint 29:12,17 checkpoints 29:8,9,11,13 chemicals 58:14 Cheryl 120:3 Chesterland 121:5,17 Chicago 1:15 2:5 4:1,4 7:5,9 11:13,19,21 13:13 15:21 17:9 18:1,13,16 19:1,2,7,10,13,2 0 20:3 22:2 29:4,19 30:10 32:23 33:9 35:15,18,22 51:23 73:24 98:16 108:8 110:23 111:3,12,19 112:3,18 116:3 124:17,18,21 125:1,2,11,16,20 ,24 127:6,12 128:15 129:5,21 130:3,6,8,16,20 133:16,22 135:18 138:15</p>	<p>141:23 143:24 146:5,17 149:17 Chicagoland 18:24 28:12,23 37:14 Chicago's 34:16 chief 56:22 87:21,22 choke 27:6,7 choose 30:20 118:18 chose 28:19 chosen 33:15 chunk 48:24 cities 34:14,23 39:8 67:13 134:25 citizen 48:8 130:18 citizens 64:14 67:22 69:8 144:18 city 19:4,8 29:3 30:10 77:18 Clair 80:23 81:3 clams 81:16 clarify 103:1 Clark 121:4 clean 24:2 33:23,24 34:13,15 53:19 cleaning 26:3 34:22 cleanup 91:25 92:1 clear 52:21 66:21 86:15 110:23 112:2 clearly 85:13 Cleveland 1:9,10 48:3 59:6,9 64:14 66:8 69:4 71:16 77:17</p>	<p>93:10 98:17 125:22 130:12 143:2 climate 72:2 Clinton 66:9 99:7 clock 50:7 clog 131:17 close 58:18,19 117:8 closed 57:22 closely 72:7 closer 56:4 120:7 closest 4:2 71:10 closing 57:19 67:16 139:14 closure 137:22 Club 69:9 106:11 126:9 127:23 clubs 106:11 coast 56:13 78:11 95:19 Coastal 68:14 70:3 code 42:15,17,20 43:25 46:19 47:8,9,12 50:10,14 55:24 56:2,9 59:5 61:13 64:20,21 68:23 71:16 73:13 75:8,11 80:5 85:5 87:12,15,17 90:12 93:8 95:10 99:3,6 104:13,15 106:25 114:18 120:5,9 129:13 136:10 139:16 145:19 collaborated 56:9 collaboration 56:8 113:11 collaborative 79:15</p>
--	--	--	---

collapse 62:8	commander 1:15	commitment	17:24 72:11
collect 102:20	4:1,7 11:19	80:13 109:17	113:24
103:4,18 104:7	commend 49:7	committed 84:1,2	completely 108:10
collecting 5:8	comment 3:4,5,9	114:8	129:9 132:8
77:23 78:4	4:15	committee 7:1	completes 77:10
102:21 103:19	5:12,14,19,24,25	14:5 68:20,21	completing 103:10
105:23	6:5,6	69:3 90:19,21,22	completion 17:21
collection 78:23	40:4,6,12,13	145:22 146:1,2,5	77:8
college 83:13	41:15,20	committees	complex 12:14
93:12	42:18,25 43:7	146:6,8	16:2 18:15 20:1
Colonel 1:15 3:25	44:3 64:4	commodore	21:23 148:18
4:6 11:12,14,18	87:4,5,6,11	106:10	149:11
16:12 18:2	110:16 113:22	common 82:15	complicated 10:14
22:4,12 50:6	120:10,11	131:4	146:19
56:3 68:5 101:21	121:1,3 122:10	commonly 118:5	component 108:22
106:21 108:13	123:9 128:14	communicates	comprehensive
120:6 132:17	132:6,19	6:24	21:1 45:8 48:19
136:14 138:10	150:8,13	communities 75:1	49:5 82:19 85:11
139:22 140:1,23	commenters 71:19	131:5	111:15
147:14	104:24	community	comprise 62:18
Colorado 78:6	comments 4:20	67:13,15	compromised
91:14	5:8,9,11,17	Compact 10:4	135:21
colored 9:17	10:18,21 11:8	companies 47:22	compromises
combating 24:23	16:11 24:13	company 75:16	135:15
107:12	26:25 39:19,21	105:21	concept 23:6
combination 27:25	40:19	compare 21:4,7	27:4,12 28:5
52:18	41:5,7,9,13,16	25:8	29:24 117:21
combinations 24:4	42:7 55:5,11	compared 25:11	118:2
35:12	57:11,14 61:14	36:18 143:5	concepts 23:10
combined 23:15	74:4,7,9 75:21	comparison 13:18	conceptual
33:11 35:5 38:6	79:10,24 89:7,24	33:6 112:1,4	20:9,13 21:12
72:20 91:25	98:11 101:13	138:5	conceptualize
135:25 142:25	104:10 105:18	compensation	117:2
comes 34:10 54:11	108:4 110:15	20:15	concern 22:4,7,20
87:19 112:16	115:21	compete 59:25	27:23 30:2 38:4
145:3	126:10,11 129:8	89:1	51:25 111:1
comfortable 77:24	133:1,2 134:2,11	compiled 5:10	117:22 118:1,10
coming 6:10 11:8	139:14 147:12	complete 31:3	concerned 60:9
16:7,10 27:14	150:4,11	45:24 71:19	71:23 77:15
31:9 44:8 93:6	commerce 74:23	72:6,12 83:15	85:14 109:2
98:24 105:12	commercial 8:3	137:19 138:25	111:4
114:3 129:9	18:21 51:17 70:6	151:8	concerns 5:18
138:14 147:16	78:19 95:13	completed 8:24	69:21 124:23
149:16,20,24	100:8 133:17,21		
	141:6		
	commission 85:1		
	151:17		

concert 52:12	conjunction 65:21	consumers 51:12	24:5
conclude 36:24 49:22 58:20 71:8	connection 19:21,24 112:9 114:6	contact 58:16	convenient 42:10
concluded 150:22	connections 8:19,22 12:24 19:23 21:25 130:3	contain 30:13	conversation 2:12 21:14 36:16 38:11 79:12,14,21 104:6 111:8
concludes 150:18	consciousness 81:24	contained 5:4	conversations 109:5
conclusion 20:7 24:11	consensus 10:24 11:6 39:3 67:12 108:24 109:15	containment 51:20 52:9 71:10	conveyance 18:23 19:3 20:17 30:7 35:5 36:2 135:10,23
condition 24:15 107:20	consent 125:10	contains 3:19	conveyed 26:9
conditions 106:5	Conservancy 47:13 48:11,14,20 50:12 59:7	contaminants 27:22 34:24	coordinated 6:24
conducting 109:5	conservation 50:13 113:10	contaminated 33:12 92:2	coordinates 6:14
conductive 23:20	conservative 21:3	context 51:20	Coordinating 6:25 14:5
confidence 138:12	consider 85:19 86:21 124:14 125:24	continental 32:25	coordination 105:25
configuration 57:10,17	consideration 21:21 72:3 115:4	continue 8:7 9:20 14:3 28:7 30:5 32:8 36:16 61:1 109:13 131:3 135:5	coordinator 71:17
confirmed 74:10 115:16	considering 82:5	continued 39:5	co-owner 80:11
Congress 9:18 10:9 12:11,20 60:21 66:1 87:23,25 102:22 128:10 137:5 138:15 145:3,4,21 146:8 147:15	considers 48:22	continues 8:3 9:24 10:8 111:23	copies 16:18
congressional 20:25 103:12	consistently 70:12	continuing 7:11,21 8:14 109:17 149:25	copy 150:15,16
congressman 58:17 61:10	consists 121:24	contracting 144:3	corner 24:9
congressmen 88:1	consortiums 103:7,8	contracts 142:14,17	corners 87:2
congresswoman 12:1 46:23 53:10 55:18,20 64:11,12,20,22,2 3,25 65:3 67:11 83:22 90:3,7,11,16 92:15 102:1 109:22 126:13 132:18 136:5 138:18 139:15,18 140:19,25 147:10,15	constitute 72:16	contributor 6:18	corporation 75:24 92:23 143:7,8
	constitutes 151:9	control 6:20,21 7:3,15,25 9:6,24 10:3,4,13 18:10 31:11,12,15 38:16,21 52:20,22 56:25 88:20 97:4 103:16 122:19,25 135:13	Corps 2:4 3:16 4:1,4,16 5:7 12:6,20 13:19 14:2,13 20:21 24:25 34:7 38:22 40:20 41:10 44:8 60:14,18 63:3 65:18,22,25 66:1,2,6,14,18 67:19,20 70:15 80:9 82:4,18,24 84:7 90:17,20 91:8,10 92:6,17,19,21 93:3 96:1,4,11 97:11 103:3,18
	construct 23:17 30:25 38:3 135:22	controlled 29:25	
	constructed 7:6	controlling 31:9	
	construction 8:25 21:10 25:2 31:24 47:21 67:2	controls 22:12,13,19,23	
	consultant 56:7		

<p>107:4 110:22 111:3 113:4,12,23 120:11,16,23 121:11 122:2,4 123:2,18 124:17,18 126:19,20,24 127:2,3 128:7,21,24,25 137:15 140:15 142:22 144:20,24 145:2,5 146:7</p> <p>Corps's 97:15</p> <p>correct 116:15 133:24 134:15 145:19 151:10</p> <p>correlation 106:2</p> <p>correlations 106:17</p> <p>corridor 91:19</p> <p>cost 20:21 21:7 28:24,25 31:4 32:12 33:25 35:9 36:4,5 37:13 51:7,12,20 55:7,8 63:14,22 72:19 74:16,20 87:19 88:12 106:15 107:10 116:2,3 132:4,8 138:4,19 142:21</p> <p>costing 63:15</p> <p>costs 20:20,22 21:2 32:10,15 34:2 36:18,19 37:6 51:14,15 63:17 82:4 107:16</p> <p>cottage 69:12</p> <p>council 1:16 3:24 53:20 68:15,16</p> <p>Council's 53:21</p> <p>Counsel 1:18</p> <p>counties 54:11</p>	<p>67:13 75:12 101:3,5,6,7,8,11</p> <p>countries 89:2</p> <p>country 13:10 45:17 53:1 54:5 86:12 91:8,18,19 92:6,8 95:19 107:22 115:5 126:21 131:24 142:9 143:1</p> <p>county 56:1,6 59:6 83:14 99:17 120:15,19 121:22 122:2,9,20</p> <p>couple 17:20 18:9 35:14 36:25 99:10 119:8 127:15 128:15 143:16 149:12</p> <p>course 65:8 66:4 88:12 100:17 109:6</p> <p>court 58:19 125:9 134:12 136:22</p> <p>courtship 82:11</p> <p>cove 82:19</p> <p>CPA 76:25</p> <p>create 67:2 120:24,25</p> <p>created 29:21 71:11 91:2 106:7</p> <p>creative 79:2</p> <p>creatures 82:8</p> <p>credible 66:14</p> <p>Creek 8:15 121:8,14,20</p> <p>crew 89:10,17,19</p> <p>criteria 13:1 20:8 36:21 107:11</p> <p>critical 70:10 71:5 120:17 147:21 148:14</p>	<p>criticality 148:19</p> <p>critically 59:23</p> <p>criticisms 141:24</p> <p>crowded 94:21</p> <p>crucial 65:11</p> <p>Cruising 69:9</p> <p>crustaceans 81:17</p> <p>CSSC 36:6 57:10,18</p> <p>cubic 112:22 125:12,13</p> <p>curious 108:11 131:11</p> <p>current 7:2 11:19 46:10 51:25 57:13 60:17 62:25 71:22</p> <p>currently 19:11 23:13 24:20 25:11 27:16 29:16,18 30:1 34:25 74:11 107:15,18 113:7,9 139:9</p> <p>cut 139:16</p> <p>Cuyahoga 83:12 122:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>Dabson 47:4 55:17,24,25 56:1,5,6 58:5,6,22,24 87:13,17 89:13 90:1 132:14 136:7,8,11,16 139:2</p> <p>dam 23:7 37:11 92:8</p> <p>damage 51:22 63:21 74:22 132:5</p> <p>damaging 50:25</p>	<p>dams 120:23</p> <p>danger 66:22,24 110:24 112:2</p> <p>Darcy 149:17</p> <p>dark 110:12</p> <p>data 22:25 100:2 105:22 106:17 107:17 118:15 119:21</p> <p>database 106:6</p> <p>date 18:11 85:10</p> <p>daughter 59:18</p> <p>Dave 1:14 4:2 11:11 15:23 16:4,5 54:15 56:3 140:13 148:4 149:3,7,22</p> <p>David 76:20 80:1,7 87:22</p> <p>Davis 146:12</p> <p>day 6:11 19:1,25 34:5 48:4 81:9 83:12 94:3 121:20 149:7,17</p> <p>days 10:18 19:25 73:19</p> <p>DDT 81:24</p> <p>deal 45:2 49:6 56:16 86:21 96:9 102:23 137:1 146:8</p> <p>dealing 47:24 48:25 108:20</p> <p>dealt 49:3</p> <p>Dean 47:4 56:1,6 87:17 136:11</p> <p>decide 102:20 144:17</p> <p>decided 35:1 43:6 91:1</p> <p>decision 45:25 125:9 129:24</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>130:19,23</p> <p>decision-maker 79:22</p> <p>decision-makers 13:5 21:20 36:10 38:24 45:9,25 98:20 134:22 144:17,19 145:6</p> <p>decision-making 20:5 36:23</p> <p>decisions 129:21 130:16 144:21,22</p> <p>deck 59:3</p> <p>decree 125:10</p> <p>dedicated 14:14 73:21</p> <p>deeply 109:2</p> <p>defend 102:13</p> <p>defense 62:25 66:10 74:11 92:2</p> <p>deficits 78:4</p> <p>define 102:8,9</p> <p>definitely 60:11 89:4 127:4</p> <p>degree 20:24</p> <p>delay 16:3 65:17 137:22</p> <p>delaying 26:14</p> <p>delegation 146:16</p> <p>deliver 148:14</p> <p>demands 65:15</p> <p>Democrat 88:19</p> <p>demonstrates 52:15</p> <p>Dennis 72:25 73:7 76:20,24 79:9 101:25</p> <p>Dennison 136:4</p> <p>department 70:2,11 122:25</p>	<p>128:18</p> <p>129:19,22</p> <p>depend 81:23</p> <p>depending 35:16 36:20</p> <p>depends 48:17</p> <p>depth 23:18</p> <p>description 37:2</p> <p>design 11:1 20:10,14 21:12 140:14</p> <p>designs 117:3</p> <p>desk 3:8,10 64:8</p> <p>destroy 131:22,24</p> <p>destroys 139:5</p> <p>destruction 51:8 62:1,2</p> <p>detail 15:2 36:15 113:12 126:17</p> <p>detailed 55:10 121:10</p> <p>details 48:13</p> <p>determination 131:7</p> <p>determine 70:14</p> <p>Detroit 34:15 81:3 124:18 125:22</p> <p>devastated 51:18</p> <p>devastating 81:1</p> <p>develop 45:10 118:19 142:5 143:19</p> <p>developed 70:24 80:23 91:2,23</p> <p>developers 122:3</p> <p>development 10:5 68:21 69:15 92:23,25 122:1 143:6,7</p> <p>devise 67:7</p> <p>dewine 44:6,17</p>	<p>46:20</p> <p>DeWine 12:4 44:2,7 54:22</p> <p>diagrams 26:23</p> <p>dialogue 12:1</p> <p>die 88:11 131:17</p> <p>died 88:16</p> <p>difference 109:12</p> <p>different 11:2 13:10,11 15:18 18:9 20:10 21:16 22:13 24:6 36:20 37:3 39:3,7 45:22 68:11 75:12 91:21 95:1 98:17 102:13 108:10 128:22,25 140:13 144:2 148:3</p> <p>difficult 89:21 96:8 119:6 148:17</p> <p>dilemma 149:11</p> <p>diligence 147:17</p> <p>diminishing 77:14</p> <p>dining 101:16</p> <p>Dino 87:20</p> <p>dioxide 7:21</p> <p>direct 10:20 51:14 63:17 128:19</p> <p>directed 54:16,17 130:2</p> <p>direction 31:14 38:17 147:7</p> <p>directional 77:2</p> <p>directions 19:14 30:12 32:1 52:3,7</p> <p>directive 123:19</p> <p>directly 33:12 106:6 121:8</p>	<p>director 50:13 53:18 68:19 69:2,5 84:24 99:17 105:14</p> <p>dirty 34:16</p> <p>DiSanto 87:21</p> <p>discharge 32:8 33:17 34:23 57:25</p> <p>discharges 33:21 34:14,19</p> <p>discovered 88:14</p> <p>discriminate 121:25</p> <p>discuss 36:14 104:5 123:3</p> <p>discussion 11:5,25 20:7 108:24 109:17,19 149:13</p> <p>disinterestedly 126:1</p> <p>display 82:12</p> <p>displayed 134:4</p> <p>disrupt 59:24</p> <p>disservice 66:3</p> <p>distance 78:2</p> <p>distinction 144:13</p> <p>distinguish 13:1 82:14</p> <p>distract 2:14,16</p> <p>district 1:15 2:5 4:1,4,7 11:13,19 13:13 97:6 128:22 129:1,2 130:9 148:3</p> <p>districts 13:11</p> <p>ditch 112:23</p> <p>Ditto 85:9</p> <p>diversity 62:20</p> <p>divide 9:1 12:19 18:4 25:22</p>
--	---	--	--

32:21,25 54:20 55:9 63:7,12,24 71:21 72:8 111:10,11 division 1:19 99:21 100:2 124:20 128:23 DNR 6:18 70:20 140:16 DNRs 114:2 140:20 doable 127:1 138:7 document 12:12 dollar 66:18 91:5 94:1 102:4 117:8,9 dollars 21:6 29:1 51:14 63:16 66:15 74:22 78:17 100:13 dominate 62:9 done 3:7 6:19 11:17 20:9,24 21:1,12 24:20,22 36:13 38:23 43:18 45:6,9 46:12 64:8 66:2 67:17,19 70:18 75:19 76:5 78:12 84:3 86:10,12 88:11 92:12 97:6 100:15 109:11 113:15 118:3 128:12 129:19 133:12 138:13,19 147:5 doors 2:19,22 download 133:10 134:8 downloaded 4:24 40:8 downstream 19:15 33:18,21 34:10 downtown 19:18	dozen 50:25 dramatically 60:12 dreadful 131:18 dredging 123:1 drinking 117:7,10,24 118:4 drive-by 121:11 drivers 28:10 37:6 driving 115:1 drop 3:10 64:9 150:13 dropped 105:9 drought 78:6 drove 84:8 Drummond 1:15 3:25 11:12,14,18 16:12 18:2 22:4,12 50:6 56:3 68:5 101:21 106:21 120:6 132:17 136:14 138:10 140:1,23 147:14 dry 78:7 112:11 dubious 144:12 ducks 80:22 81:16 82:21 due 62:8 80:13 147:17 Duluth 91:20 125:22 127:13 dumped 121:7 dumping 26:2 97:24 112:22 Dunes 81:4 Dunn 93:9 94:14,18,20 duration 17:22 during 5:12,19 32:1 41:20 69:14	94:8 dysfunction 78:2 <hr/> E <hr/> e.g 52:10 eager 94:9 eagle 8:23 105:3 113:8 eagles 81:11 104:25 earlier 11:18 42:5 54:15 83:22 101:2 130:21 144:25 149:1 early 15:6 31:7 148:21 earth 65:9 91:13 92:17 124:13 easily 113:1 east 39:12 92:11 95:19 127:14 easy 5:17 67:5 134:2 echo 83:21 Eckman 129:12,13 130:14,18,24 131:8,21 eco 123:21 ecological 51:8,21 65:12 72:18 82:1 141:19 ecologists 81:20 economic 22:24 46:4 51:10 52:23 59:15 63:21 65:11 70:5 72:18 101:2 economics 80:19 ecosystem 62:21,22 65:10 81:1,22 84:10 96:3 97:12,13 ecosystems	69:19,23 Ed 132:21 133:23 134:1 edge 121:7,9 140:7,8,11 education 25:23 80:11 Edward 72:25 75:10 eel 57:3 58:11,12 effective 7:8 9:25 26:13 49:13 50:23 52:12,17 63:4,10 66:23 83:17,19 118:23 effectively 48:9 effluent 33:17 effort 4:18 70:13 efforts 3:15 9:19 10:8 37:22 56:19,20 60:13,17 eggs 62:13 118:14 140:6 Egypt 85:24 eight 15:14 71:1 101:3,6,8 127:14 either 5:14 30:16 31:14 42:9 45:19 54:19 73:2 103:7 elected 36:11 67:12 90:8 98:21,22 128:4,9 130:22 144:23 electric 7:5 23:12,16,21 28:6 58:13 63:2 74:10 electrical 52:10 electrified 91:11 electrofishing 7:10 electronic 139:23 elements 26:9,17
--	---	---	--

<p>35:4 eliminate 94:5 eloquently 75:22 126:22 else 38:19 86:25 88:13 128:2 132:15 elsewhere 85:25 107:7 e-mail 39:25 emerge 10:24 emergency 2:22,24 employ 55:1 employee 89:8 employing 57:4 employment 89:5,22 encourage 70:13 71:24 74:5 82:17,23 93:22 encouraged 60:24 endorse 126:11,15 energized 106:13 Energy 90:19 92:20 145:25 engage 139:3 engagement 17:11,17 39:5,18 engineer 13:19 75:14,23 76:17 80:11 engineered 23:17 engineering 47:22 96:18,21 120:24 engineering-level 113:13 engineers 2:4 3:16 4:2,4,16 5:7 20:21 25:1 38:22 40:20,21 41:11 67:19,20 96:11,16 97:12</p>	<p>103:3,18 110:23 113:12 123:2 126:20,25 127:2,3 128:7,22,24 144:24 145:2,5 enjoy 124:3 enormity 16:1 ensure 30:4,6 37:13 39:12,15 64:6 118:22 130:19 135:25 ensuring 21:2 enter 41:9 entering 65:15 entire 27:9,10 28:10 64:16 101:12 111:17 124:2,21 entirety 4:23 40:8 entrusted 120:16 123:7 129:24 entry 111:2 environment 74:24 105:13 environmental 1:16 3:24 6:13 22:24 53:19,21 56:11 91:24,25 119:12 120:25 environmentalists 67:14 environmentally 66:25 EPA's 59:10 episodic 112:8 equally 41:16 equivalent 91:12 Erie 8:15 9:4 39:11 44:19 45:16 49:16,18 50:4 54:3,7,9 59:16</p>	<p>61:15,17,22 62:7 64:17 65:4,10 66:22 67:21 69:24 70:19,21 73:22 83:10 94:6 99:25 100:11,22 104:18,19 107:15,19 121:23 129:15 131:16 Erie's 100:5 erosion 102:15 121:19 especially 15:8 71:25 essence 71:2 essential 52:23 53:2 148:16 essentially 33:20 128:11 135:16 establish 62:12 115:17 established 10:1 60:11 62:11,16 108:24 109:14 establishment 101:16 estate 69:15 estimate 119:14 estimated 28:25 estimates 100:11 140:22 estimating 20:21 et 26:15 37:25 77:11 79:23 89:23 91:15 100:16 142:18 Eurasia 89:18 Eurasian 136:19 137:5 evaluating 10:22 evaluation 8:16 13:1 20:8 36:21</p>	<p>111:15 evaluations 113:25 evening 2:25 4:9 11:17 68:4,9 69:21 80:3 126:12 evening's 2:6 3:3 event 2:21 30:10 121:2,21 events 19:13 28:11 32:2,9 121:14 122:8 eventually 121:12 Everglades 66:16 97:3,7,9,18 148:6 everybody 2:18 40:25 53:25 55:6 78:24 110:15 148:20 149:15,18 everyday 28:16 everyone 2:10 6:10 10:6 16:16 36:25 41:3 60:14 109:24 131:5 134:13 136:6 144:10 145:9 149:24 150:3,7 everyone's 98:11 131:2 everything 33:13 42:8 64:6 85:10 134:13 144:7 147:23 everywhere 102:24 evidence 118:18 evident 147:19 exact 149:5 exactly 103:1,22 105:24</p>
--	--	---	--

<p>examine 119:6</p> <p>examines 12:15</p> <p>example 13:22 20:25 30:9 31:8 78:15</p> <p>examples 25:16</p> <p>exceeds 55:7</p> <p>excellent 9:21 16:19 21:13 26:1 38:23 111:6</p> <p>except 31:1 70:23</p> <p>excess 28:20</p> <p>exchange 24:1</p> <p>excited 12:6</p> <p>excuse 5:24 11:12 57:2 145:12</p> <p>execute 127:4</p> <p>executive 14:21 68:20 69:3</p> <p>exist 38:1 56:18 138:9 143:12</p> <p>existing 14:6 17:8 18:16 25:2 28:22 33:9,11 36:1 37:4 128:12 135:16 142:9</p> <p>exists 29:16</p> <p>exit 2:22</p> <p>exits 2:24</p> <p>expand 102:6</p> <p>expanded 23:14</p> <p>expect 8:24 85:12</p> <p>expectation 38:2</p> <p>expedited 17:21 21:11</p> <p>expend 142:12</p> <p>expenditures 100:11</p> <p>expensive 10:14 63:11 82:3</p> <p>experience 75:16</p>	<p>81:13 82:21 127:10</p> <p>experienced 98:5</p> <p>expertise 96:17,22 97:5</p> <p>expires 151:17</p> <p>explained 144:25</p> <p>explains 15:17</p> <p>expunged 107:16</p> <p>extending 19:9</p> <p>extensive 7:9 14:7</p> <p>extensively 112:19</p> <p>extent 148:23</p> <p>extra 142:6 144:11 150:16</p> <p>extreme 33:23 133:19</p> <p>extremely 80:19</p> <p>eyeballs 106:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>face 59:14 65:9 92:16</p> <p>Facebook 39:25</p> <p>faced 91:22</p> <p>faces 16:9 74:1</p> <p>facilitate 36:22</p> <p>facility 117:9</p> <p>fact 13:10 26:13 54:7</p> <p>factory-fishing 139:4</p> <p>fail 132:9</p> <p>failing 66:3</p> <p>failure 50:3 52:11 72:15</p> <p>fairly 10:5,13,14</p> <p>Fairport 56:14</p> <p>faith 109:16</p>	<p>faith-based 67:15</p> <p>fall 80:20,21</p> <p>fallen 88:5</p> <p>falling 89:3</p> <p>false 93:21</p> <p>familiar 23:6 74:1 77:20 97:23</p> <p>families 95:21</p> <p>family 59:5,16 83:7</p> <p>fantastic 116:8</p> <p>farmer's 112:23</p> <p>farther 10:25</p> <p>farthest 3:23</p> <p>fashion 6:25</p> <p>fast 62:14,23</p> <p>faster 76:5,8,9</p> <p>faulted 113:23</p> <p>favor 48:20</p> <p>feasibility 16:2</p> <p>feasible 117:4</p> <p>February 81:16</p> <p>federal 6:15 13:24 14:8,12 21:19 24:16,19,23 36:11 54:12 60:14 65:20 77:21 97:21 112:25 125:6 132:25 142:20 144:19 146:14</p> <p>federally 103:15</p> <p>fee 102:4</p> <p>feed 81:16 93:21</p> <p>feedback 50:20 53:6</p> <p>feel 21:12 24:10 26:25 39:25 45:22 64:7 84:5 98:13 141:13 150:16</p>	<p>feeling 120:14</p> <p>fees 77:22</p> <p>feet 121:7 125:12,13</p> <p>female 62:13</p> <p>field 119:10</p> <p>field-scale 118:21</p> <p>figure 79:18 115:21 116:4 146:21</p> <p>figured 93:25 140:17</p> <p>figures 26:21 66:19 99:22 141:21</p> <p>figuring 115:20</p> <p>file 48:12</p> <p>fill 3:6,9 121:7</p> <p>filled 121:6</p> <p>filling 121:13 122:8,19 123:1</p> <p>film 56:10</p> <p>filters 28:1 117:15</p> <p>final 66:3 134:18</p> <p>finally 142:4</p> <p>finance 88:22</p> <p>financed 144:1</p> <p>financial 76:25 77:3</p> <p>financially 77:12</p> <p>financing 93:5 142:19 143:4</p> <p>finding 60:23</p> <p>fine 68:7</p> <p>firm 66:3</p> <p>firmly 117:20</p> <p>first 3:1 5:3 17:15 26:19 31:18 42:13,22 44:13 48:18 49:12</p>
--	---	--	---

56:13 68:13 76:2 85:9 87:14 93:8,11 95:9 101:23 110:9 112:7 124:9 126:8 132:18 134:2 147:14 firsthand 148:20 fish 7:12 12:16 26:15 45:17 59:19 62:17 63:2,14,21 74:13 81:16,21 93:19 95:1 99:25 110:24 117:15 118:13 131:18 132:2 138:23 139:23 140:6,22 fisheries 51:17 59:25 70:11 fisherman 124:1 fishermen 45:15 93:22 fishery 64:15 70:1 96:3 fishing 7:10 25:17 46:6 56:15 60:12 69:16 70:7 78:20 80:19 83:8,9 95:13,20,23 97:23 99:24 100:1,5,8,10,11, 14 102:4 131:25 139:4 five 69:24 70:1 71:1,6 146:23 fix 131:13 flat 32:23,25 flattest 148:11 Fletcher 99:5,14,16 101:22 flip 24:10 flood 19:16 28:22 29:3 31:23 33:4	flooding 37:15 121:14 122:8 floodplain 122:4 flood-risk 19:6 20:16 28:20 30:8,19,25 32:13 36:2 37:5 135:11,20 floor 149:1 flow 27:3,8,10,12,15 28:13 32:16 34:4 61:23 97:8 121:23 125:2 flowing 57:21 flows 19:11 122:22 flushed 58:9 flushing 24:1 28:5 fly 104:25 105:3 focus 20:2 23:20 37:21 49:1 focused 15:20 22:2 111:19 folks 13:13 97:1 116:4 128:15 130:11 food 59:24 62:17 93:19,20 force 141:17 forced 123:22 foregoing 151:5,7 foreseeable 8:8 forgot 114:18 form 3:3,4 5:17 40:14 41:14 42:24 49:20,23 57:22 112:9 150:13 151:7,8 formal 46:19 formally 5:11 42:17 former 78:15	84:24 forms 41:11 89:15 Fort 8:23 9:2 114:6 forth 118:13,15 Fortunately 6:16 fortune 12:2 75:16 forums 109:4 forward 9:11 10:16 11:6,9,10 14:15 16:10 24:11 39:20 40:4 46:15 60:24 79:15 80:21 104:8 115:22 131:7 132:10 149:25 150:1 four-part 7:4 fourth 54:5 fraction 132:4,7 frankly 45:6,23 46:9 Frederic 1:15 11:18 Frederick 3:25 free 24:10 26:25 39:25 150:17 freezing 22:15 frequent 121:15 frequently 3:13 77:7 fresh 52:5 86:2 freshwater 50:13 51:2 65:6,9 92:16 fretful 131:25 friend 126:23 friends 126:14 frightens 82:2 front 3:7,10 92:19 132:15 140:8	front-end 105:8 frustration 45:2 fuel 100:15 full 39:1 functionality 133:15 135:1,8 functioning 62:21 fund 10:8 79:4 102:12 fundamentals 49:11 funded 76:14 103:15 114:5,9 funding 9:18 17:15 25:6 60:23 76:16 77:10 106:18 109:21 115:25 116:5 143:11 funds 79:3 82:5 142:12,20 funny 55:4 future 8:8,19 13:21 17:16 52:1 65:4,12 71:22 72:1 <hr/> G <hr/> gained 25:10 gallons 34:5 Gasoline 121:4 gate 57:24 gathered 37:2 gaze 101:17 GDP 54:6 Geauga 120:15,19 121:22 122:19 general 12:3 44:2,6,7,17 46:20 54:2,21 77:24 78:23 90:24 92:21 96:8
--	---	--	---

<p>121:1 122:10 126:13 134:20 143:3</p> <p>Generally 70:8</p> <p>generals 44:10</p> <p>generation 96:14</p> <p>gentleman 84:4 95:8 99:2 104:11 114:14 133:6 138:20 145:21 146:11 149:1</p> <p>gentleman's 128:17</p> <p>gentlemen 2:3 40:5 47:6 68:9 75:18 80:3</p> <p>George 59:1 68:2,10 123:16,25</p> <p>Georgian 69:10,12</p> <p>gets 41:25 42:2 88:17,25</p> <p>getting 8:14 9:15 14:19 50:19 54:18 77:25 78:20 84:2 95:15,22 96:18 98:12 102:11 103:24 109:8 114:9 131:2 136:20 138:9,19</p> <p>giant 106:6</p> <p>Gibbs 88:8 145:23 146:5,22 147:3</p> <p>Ginn 47:2,9,16,18,19 49:10,23 107:2</p> <p>girl 147:8</p> <p>given 3:1,13,17 5:12 19:1 41:5,13 43:2,5 51:5 121:17 128:9</p> <p>gives 105:11</p>	<p>giving 85:23 144:11</p> <p>glad 4:22</p> <p>glamour 78:10</p> <p>GLMRIS 1:14 2:8 3:14,18 4:3,19,20,23,24 5:2,5,7,8,10 6:4 7:16,18 12:12,14,20,24 13:3,7,9,23 14:2,17 16:14 17:17,21 21:23 23:24,25 28:5 39:23 40:7,9 41:10 51:6 52:15 57:15 60:5 72:9 89:7 97:12 111:14 134:8</p> <p>GLMRIS.anl.gov 18:7 134:7</p> <p>goal 5:4,5 15:22 20:11 38:10 49:13,24 135:12 148:21</p> <p>goals 5:3 17:5</p> <p>God 71:11</p> <p>goldeneye 81:11</p> <p>gone 137:13,16,20</p> <p>gosh 143:25</p> <p>Goss 1:16 3:23 6:9,10,12 18:2 48:3 101:15,22 108:23 113:22 130:1,15,21 131:1 148:13 150:3</p> <p>gotten 146:4</p> <p>Goudreau 59:1 61:9 68:3,4,8,10,24 69:1 70:23 71:9 123:16,17 124:1 125:19 126:5</p> <p>government 63:15</p>	<p>65:20 78:3 125:6 132:7</p> <p>governmental 103:8</p> <p>GR 148:15</p> <p>grab 16:17 82:20 150:17</p> <p>grain 141:8,10</p> <p>Grand 115:14 122:21</p> <p>grass 70:23 115:17</p> <p>great 1:3 2:7 9:4,12,15,22 10:1,4,7,14 11:3 12:10,18,22 16:9,24 18:5 20:5 22:1 24:22 25:5 34:14,23 37:16 38:18 44:20,23,24 45:2,13,20 46:6 50:3,4 51:13 54:4 58:12 59:8,10,11,12,23 25 60:10 61:17 62:6 63:7 64:16 65:8,10,15 66:13 69:8,19,22,24 70:1,9 71:1 73:17,22,25 74:1,12,18,25 75:5 78:9 80:17 81:5,22 82:20,25 84:12 86:1,5,6,8,11,17 90:24 104:25 107:19 111:10,16 115:8 116:7,8 120:17 125:24 127:14 137:14 139:6 141:7 142:24 143:2 146:4,9,10,22 148:14 150:18</p> <p>greater 11:20 51:22 69:4</p>	<p>86:17,23 126:17</p> <p>greatest 62:7</p> <p>green 3:1 33:19 41:21</p> <p>grew 61:19</p> <p>Griswold 121:8,14,20</p> <p>Grosse 80:10 81:2</p> <p>ground 60:1 131:4</p> <p>group 44:22 105:14,16 106:4 146:13</p> <p>groups 11:2 68:11 104:7 109:1,5,8,18 126:15 131:4</p> <p>grow 62:14</p> <p>growing 83:14</p> <p>Guard 56:13</p> <p>guardians 123:21</p> <p>guess 77:19 87:22 96:6 103:1,16 108:11 112:13 118:10 122:11,25 125:21 128:1 134:15</p> <p>guide 95:23</p> <p>guided 83:9</p> <p>gulls 81:10</p> <p>gung-ho 138:22</p> <p>guy 138:21 148:9</p> <p>guys 4:22 54:17 76:6 83:19 95:15,25 104:2 115:13,25 116:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>habitat 49:17 62:17 82:7 115:15</p>
--	--	--	---

hair 105:2	140:17 147:5	23:20 36:22	holding 53:24
half 29:1 36:6 83:11 114:1	having 28:18 29:7 32:2 44:11 53:5 79:12,14,21 95:22 102:1	41:19 70:14 79:4 88:22 89:5 91:1 96:14 101:19 106:18 127:21,23 140:3	home 53:23 68:18 69:1,3 73:20 94:3 95:20 99:5 126:7
hand 41:12 46:21 50:17	head 67:23 105:3 119:20	helped 128:25	homeowner 104:17
handle 57:9,17 137:25 146:14	heads 92:24 145:21	helpful 6:22 10:22	hometown 81:2
handled 125:9	headwaters 8:18 9:1	helping 9:16 93:3 147:16 148:14	honored 80:8
handles 146:2	health 53:18 59:12 64:17 65:3 70:10 74:23,25 125:3	helps 91:9 146:7	hooded 82:13
handling 78:3	healthy 53:22 62:20	hemorrhagic 117:18	Hoover 92:8
handout 3:17	hear 12:17 14:11 15:9,12,14 39:15 42:22 55:4 60:24 61:8 98:15,16,17,18 107:13 138:21 149:19	hence 29:23 35:8	hope 16:16 45:8 46:1 60:21 93:2 125:25 134:21 144:8
hands 87:13	heard 54:2 59:15 71:3 74:7 84:3 93:11 98:19 102:1,3 105:22 107:3,9 126:22 127:15,19 128:15 134:20,24 141:24 148:21	herbicides 22:15 25:19	hopefully 8:25 11:1 85:25
Hanratty 59:1 61:9,12,13 63:20 64:2	hearing 10:19 39:20 43:5 64:13 85:20 98:14 133:1 148:19 150:21	hereby 151:3	hoping 11:4
happen 43:23 49:15 54:20 58:22 77:15 104:10,17 127:9,18 132:1	he's 87:22 138:11 146:12	hesitation 131:12	horizon 67:21
happened 12:11 91:11 121:12	he'd 44:3	Hey 104:8 146:23	horrible 46:7
happenings 40:2	held 41:16	Hi 61:12 73:12	host 4:8 11:21,24
happens 50:1 70:5 74:17 92:7 116:23	help 5:21 6:11 7:25 9:4 10:16 11:7 13:1 21:14	hibernation 66:2	hosting 4:16 39:7
happy 138:17		high 22:10 33:2 93:21 121:24	hours 19:25
Harbor 56:14		higher 74:19	house 3:24 6:14 104:20 105:1 145:21
harbors 96:12 123:20		highest 52:9	houses 95:21
hard 15:9 60:15 66:14 140:16		highlight 148:7	http:// GLMRIS.anl.gov 4:25
harder 26:22		highlighted 29:21	huge 89:14 100:23
harvest 100:4,6		highly 19:24 30:24 50:25	human 59:14 117:23
harvesting 8:3		highway 51:24	human-mediated 37:23
hate 97:14		hiking 61:20	humbled 80:8
hats 68:11 126:8		historically 124:24	hundred 13:11 57:4 90:25 91:22 93:1 103:14 112:22 129:3 142:21
haven't 3:7 20:24 43:7,18 99:18 110:4,11 118:3 133:13 135:6		history 58:12 60:7 96:3 124:24 147:23	hundreds 51:13
		Hocking 93:12	
		hold 28:19 53:16 62:24	

63:16 74:22 Huron 104:16 124:5,6 Hutchinson 87:25 hybrid 35:18,20 hydraulic 21:15 70:12 hydrologic 31:18,19 32:18,19,21 71:20 126:16 135:2,14 hydrological 49:12 54:25 66:12,23 133:20 hydrology 114:8 hydropower 96:15 Hyle 72:23 hypothesis 80:24 <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> I'd 2:10,11,17 3:21 4:5 5:23 6:8 14:16 16:3 24:17 38:20 40:7 41:12 53:23,24 60:6 64:3 87:7 133:4 140:1 147:11 150:5,7 Idaho 146:3 idea 23:14 26:1,3 29:6,24 32:18 88:15,22,24 93:14 98:1 105:11,19 Ideally 10:24 ideas 21:14 22:15 23:23 25:17,25 56:23 106:19 identified 17:1 21:24 22:13 52:19 111:11 identifies 13:20	identify 16:22 18:17 20:13 47:7 102:9 113:16 identifying 75:19 111:23 ignored 122:5 I'll 20:6 36:3 43:2,22 44:14 50:17 95:9 116:12 120:3,13 127:24 132:22 134:2 Illinois 34:6 125:1,8 129:22 130:5,6,8,16 141:7 146:16,18 I'm 2:4 11:11,19 15:23 18:12 22:9 24:7,9 27:10 37:9 42:1,3,20 44:7,10 46:21 47:9,11,19 48:10 50:12 51:4 53:12,18 55:4 59:9,14 60:9,24 61:13,14,20,24 65:18 68:8,10,12,13,15 ,16,17,19,24 69:2,4,6,7,9,11,2 0 71:15,16 73:16 74:4 76:6,24,25 77:14,20,24 80:8,10 81:7 83:7,12,15,17,20 84:1,23 85:14 87:8 90:11,20 95:14 99:9,10,16,17 105:13,14 106:9 107:3,4 108:7,10,11 110:19 114:17 115:22 116:15,21 118:7,10 119:4 120:3 123:12,24,25	125:21 126:6 129:14,20 131:25 136:25 138:17 139:19 141:8 142:7 143:14 145:17 146:3 148:25 immediate 65:16 93:16 95:5 133:20 immediately 13:23 58:1 112:13 132:11 impact 34:10 86:5 101:2 120:25 impacted 135:2 impacts 17:7 18:18 20:16 33:5 35:7 37:4,14,15 135:3 impart 38:20 impending 34:18 imperative 51:21 implement 17:10 31:12 37:8 63:23 97:11 implementable 22:18 117:3 implementation 20:18 21:16 implemented 13:23 22:19 23:4 25:15 26:9 52:11 77:9 implementing 63:22 74:20 implies 24:19 implying 103:20 importance 45:12,19 46:4 65:23 101:10 important 6:12 10:2 11:24 17:12 39:6,20 52:5	54:3,7 59:12,24 61:18 63:9 73:24 79:5,16,23 89:9 90:23 98:15,18,20 116:9 130:7 133:16 149:16 impose 51:9 impossible 95:23 impression 141:9 inactivate 28:1 117:25 inactivates 117:11,12 inactivating 117:21 inadequate 63:1 inadvertently 37:25 inaudible 15:14 18:11 43:15 44:10 50:19 53:11,15 58:21 65:1 73:3,5 104:1 110:4,7 119:1 121:22 148:15 inception 17:13 incline 89:19 include 26:17 35:4 72:8 93:4 included 5:11 including 22:24 30:7 31:1 39:4 81:10 133:16 incorporation 13:21 incorrect 141:8 increase 28:13 index 43:2,5 Indiana 8:23 111:1 114:4
--	---	---	--

Indians 124:8	33:10 47:23	120:11	invasion 66:5
indicate 33:19	87:24	interagency	110:24 131:13
indicated 40:13	88:2,4,6,21	146:13	invasive 8:19
42:24 44:2	89:1,4 94:25	interbasin 1:4 2:8	9:14,25 12:8
47:2,18 104:12	96:14 98:7 118:4	12:11 15:12	14:3 25:18 48:21
133:19 139:10	122:12 135:23	21:25 23:9	49:14 51:1 54:18
Indicating 123:14	inherent 107:14	interest 49:6 50:22	55:2 56:24 59:22
indicative 54:1	Initiative 10:2,8	131:4	60:1 62:8,24
indirect 51:15	25:6 116:7	interested 9:22	69:22 74:17 86:7
63:17	146:11 148:15	10:19 11:2,25	96:2,8,19 97:4
indiscriminate	inky 105:6	15:4 31:8 88:9	102:14 116:21
120:14	inlet 125:20	131:6 141:3	invasives 51:18
individual 18:8	innovate 96:23	interesting 91:17	52:8 58:8
25:19 103:7	input 5:5 14:20	141:12,22	invest 50:22
123:25 147:22	39:18 80:9 122:7	142:19	investing 89:2
150:4	129:8 131:2	interests 36:20	investment 50:1,2
individuals 62:12	145:10	56:19 80:18	88:2,4
126:15 148:1	inside 24:2	141:7 142:18	investments 39:2
149:2	146:16,17	interfere 136:22	75:4
induced 37:15	insidious 131:14	interim 38:6,8	invite 101:14
industries 19:17	inspires 138:11	52:12,20 54:23	involve 65:19
industry 54:10	instant 95:5	international 85:1	91:24
61:2 67:3 89:23	instantaneously	108:22	involved 6:18
92:3	58:7	interrelationship	13:11 40:1 44:19
131:22,24,25	instead 28:17,19	100:20	52:19 56:12
infested 8:2	29:7 35:1	interrupt 64:18	68:12 69:15 70:4
inflative 23:19	instructions 3:8	interrupting 142:1	86:22 95:13
influence 56:20	instrumentalities	intersection 113:8	107:18 132:25
inform 26:1	65:20	intimately 148:5	138:10 141:14
information 3:19	143:10,11,12	intricate 91:16	148:3,5
5:4,6 6:9 13:6	instrumentality	introduce 3:22	involvement 52:25
15:6,11 18:6	91:3 92:17,25	16:4 29:9	involves 86:2
20:6 21:13,19	144:7	introduced 16:12	irreplaceable 82:7
22:17,21,22,24	insult 81:19	30:14	84:5,11
23:15 36:10,14	insults 121:13	introduction	Island 69:10
38:23 43:9 79:13	intake 131:17	50:24 80:24	isn't 115:7 137:7
105:23 113:17	intelligent 143:15	97:24	isolated 25:20
134:14,16,22	intended 130:2	invade 60:10	issue 44:11
147:21	intense 72:1	invaded 62:18	48:10,23 59:15
information's	intent 31:13	invaders 51:9	65:25 73:24 79:5
14:19	interactions	74:21	80:16 83:18
infrastructure		invading 59:23	86:16 93:11 96:9
28:18 30:19,25			98:10 125:25
			133:21 146:9

issues 14:3 47:24 56:7,11 it's 3:13 5:17 10:13 14:22,23 15:7 16:8 17:12 20:5 23:7 24:15 26:1 27:23 30:15 32:25 37:10 38:11,25 41:22,24 45:14,15,17 49:6,16 50:21 51:7 54:1 55:3,6 56:11 57:12 58:11 65:19 66:11 70:10,18 71:5 72:17 73:25 74:15 77:1 79:5 86:19 88:5,8,12,23 89:10,22 91:25 92:1 95:23 97:13,14,19 98:13,14,18 102:23 103:17 104:4,15 105:4,8 108:12 109:2 110:12 112:6,17,21 115:8 116:7 117:23 118:3,4,5 119:5 122:4,12,13 126:12 129:16 131:23 133:23 134:4,15 135:5,24 137:23 139:20 141:16 144:6 146:19 147:18,19 148:22 149:18 I've 41:18 43:19 56:13 59:10 69:14,16 73:21 75:15 77:16 81:14 83:13,18,23 90:17 95:13 105:5,7 113:15	120:10,18 122:8 124:16,21 127:19 133:12 141:13,24 146:1,4 147:1 148:12 <hr/> J <hr/> Jacksonville 97:5 129:2 148:5 January 1:7 12:12 14:18 17:23 81:15 Jared 68:3 71:15 jewel 129:16 job 21:2,13 38:23 67:5 73:20 75:19 92:18 138:12 148:22 jobs 54:13 67:2 75:2 89:9 94:2 107:15,18,21,23 John 1:16 3:23 6:9,12 11:14,25 14:5,6 47:2,11 50:11 55:3 87:25 108:1,13 112:20 113:14 114:15 120:2,4,6,9 148:13 John's 115:6 joined 40:24 joint 47:3 85:1 Joy 58:25 59:1,4 Joyce 87:22 144:14 Jr 1:15 July 17:23 jump 112:14 <hr/> K <hr/> Kaptur 12:2 46:24 53:8 61:10 64:23 83:22 102:1	109:22 131:23 139:19 147:15 149:10 K-a-p-t-u-r 64:25 KAPTUR 53:10 55:20 64:12,20,22,25 65:3 67:11 90:7,11,16 92:15 132:18 139:18 140:19,25 145:16,19 Kathryn 59:1 61:8,12 kayak 61:22 Kendall 1:17 2:3 18:6 50:6 90:2 145:12 Kent 83:13 Kerry 88:1 key 17:17 50:23 146:8 kid 83:14 kids 73:20 149:4 kill 116:21 118:8 Killbuck 8:14 kills 117:12 kindly 48:5 knock 95:3 known 60:4 99:7 124:8 125:16 Kristy 47:4 53:4,17 101:1,7 114:13,16,17 119:25 Kyle 1:18 73:15 <hr/> L <hr/> labor 67:14 laboratory 119:9 lack 51:5 lackadaisical	120:14 ladies 2:3 68:9 laid 15:16 lake 8:15 9:4 13:14,17 19:11,12,15 27:16 29:10,14,16 31:21 33:12,25 34:21,25 35:7 44:19 45:15 49:15,18 50:4 54:3,7,8,11 56:1,6,15 59:6,16 61:15,17,22,23,2 4,25 62:1,3,7 64:17 65:4,10,13 66:22 67:15,17,21,23 69:24 70:4,5,19,21 73:22 75:12 77:17 80:22,23 81:3 83:10 94:6 99:23,25 100:5,11,22 101:2,4,10,11 104:18,19,21 105:12,16,17 106:5,8,14 107:15,19 121:23 124:4,5 125:12,14 129:15,16 131:12,16 140:2,5 149:5 lakefront 31:19,21 32:11,17 105:14,16 106:4 lakes 1:3,18 2:7 9:5,12,15,22 10:1,4,7,14 11:3 12:10,18,22 16:24 22:1 25:5 31:10 34:14,23 37:16 38:18 44:20,23
--	---	--	--

<p>45:13,20 46:6 50:4 51:13 54:4,5 58:12 59:8,10,11,12,23 ,25 60:10 61:17 62:6,10 63:7,9 64:16 65:8,10,15 66:5,13 69:8,19,22,24 70:1,10 71:1 73:18,22,25 74:12,18,25 75:5 78:9 80:17 81:6,22 82:20,25 84:12 86:1,5,7,8,11,17 90:24 107:19 111:10,16 115:8 116:7,8 120:17 125:25 127:14 137:14 139:6 142:24 143:3 146:4,9,11 148:15 150:19</p> <p>lakeshore 61:20 81:5</p> <p>lakeside 7:11,14 33:13</p> <p>lamprey 9:24 57:3 58:11,12,15</p> <p>land 53:22 59:7 68:20 77:10 124:10,12,13 146:4</p> <p>lands 48:16</p> <p>lanyard 5:20</p> <p>large 32:12 33:8 53:1 80:24 98:6 99:24 139:2,3</p> <p>largely 47:21</p> <p>larger 28:15 117:15 123:4,6</p> <p>largest 52:4 54:6 65:8 131:23</p> <p>Larry 99:14,16</p>	<p>larvae 140:6</p> <p>last 3:16 35:11 74:11 81:8 84:3 90:9 99:24 100:9 137:15 140:9 144:13 148:13</p> <p>Lastly 74:25 148:24</p> <p>late 32:22 124:25</p> <p>later 12:1 15:9 17:23 106:20 126:10</p> <p>latest 40:1</p> <p>LaTourette 87:21</p> <p>LaTourette's 56:22</p> <p>Lawrence 78:19 92:23 143:6,20</p> <p>laws 25:24</p> <p>lawsuit 125:7</p> <p>lawyer 47:19</p> <p>lawyers 143:17</p> <p>lays 86:9</p> <p>lead 54:24 114:3</p> <p>leaders 67:13 127:21</p> <p>leadership 127:10</p> <p>leading 140:7,11</p> <p>leads 32:9</p> <p>leak 131:13</p> <p>leaking 131:11</p> <p>learn 4:19 18:25</p> <p>learned 23:15</p> <p>learning 7:7</p> <p>least 49:19 107:18 121:23 134:17 136:2 146:19</p> <p>leave 3:11 38:19 64:8 127:24 150:14</p>	<p>leaves 35:19</p> <p>leaving 35:21,25 64:5 120:20</p> <p>left-hand 2:20 24:8</p> <p>legislate 103:13</p> <p>legislation 17:19,22,25 54:16 111:15,18,21</p> <p>less 31:4 62:22 63:10 76:18 81:23 85:22</p> <p>lessons 23:15</p> <p>let's 43:22 46:16 103:25 139:9</p> <p>level 20:9,13 21:3,12 24:23 33:24 34:15 57:13 77:22 83:19 113:2 117:3 132:25 146:14</p> <p>levels 34:22 78:3</p> <p>library 1:9 11:23</p> <p>license 102:4</p> <p>licensed 99:23</p> <p>licenses 99:24 100:1</p> <p>licensing 78:17</p> <p>lie 36:20</p> <p>Lieutenant 4:6</p> <p>life 48:16 61:18 68:19 69:2,4 75:3 77:16 81:7,13 124:2,22 129:15</p> <p>lifelong 61:14 77:16 129:14</p> <p>lifetime 61:25</p> <p>lift 57:11,12,18,23 58:2,8 89:14,15</p>	<p>141:25</p> <p>light 28:1 89:8 96:1</p> <p>likelihood 112:5</p> <p>likely 114:4 119:8 135:18</p> <p>limits 51:24</p> <p>line 17:1,2 33:19 58:25 74:11</p> <p>lined 146:20</p> <p>list 22:6 68:2 78:8 81:7 83:2</p> <p>listed 22:7</p> <p>listen 15:23 147:20</p> <p>listening 16:11 80:15 82:23 105:18 107:5 144:4</p> <p>literally 28:18 84:13</p> <p>little 8:14 10:17 14:22 16:13 18:1 23:3 26:22 27:1,2 39:12 56:4 68:6 94:24 96:18 113:14 114:11 118:13 128:16 140:3,13 142:5 144:25</p> <p>live 13:13 19:8 59:6 70:21 83:11 90:23 105:16 120:15 149:4</p> <p>lives 59:21 95:20</p> <p>livestock 93:21</p> <p>living 77:16 83:8</p> <p>load 34:21,24</p> <p>loaded 57:23</p> <p>loader 105:8</p> <p>lobby 2:13</p> <p>local 13:24 14:12 52:23 54:13</p>
---	--	---	---

56:16 65:21 77:21 102:5 112:20 113:2 122:7 123:2 130:7 142:13 locally 98:21 located 2:19 15:21 25:20 81:2 locations 50:23 lock 23:24,25 24:1,2 28:5 57:6,20,22 72:9 89:15,16 Lockport 57:20 logistics 127:4 long 8:15 10:13 14:22 38:3 44:25 47:19 52:9 55:6 60:2 61:19 76:12 78:2 94:4 109:11 118:24 longer 31:25 46:5 63:18 119:11 137:22 long-term 7:19 9:18 38:10 52:16 93:15 94:23 107:5 109:13 112:17 118:19 longtime 75:15 Lorain 66:9 Los 92:10 lose 49:18 62:22 losses 51:8,10 lost 86:22 lot 15:5 18:5 20:6 44:23 55:4 56:18 59:15,17 73:19 74:2 75:16 85:21 87:9 97:1,3,6,7 100:1 104:21 106:15 110:13,15 112:12,18	113:15,19 114:19,25 115:11,22,23 118:17 122:13 126:14 135:15,17 138:14,21 147:21,25 148:9 lots 11:1 loud 53:12,13 love 44:11 56:15 61:24 low 22:10 121:24 lower 24:8 30:21 35:16 89:15 lowest 52:10 Lowry 72:23 73:12,15 Lucas 93:9 luxury 67:22 <hr/> M <hr/> ma'am 61:7 64:19 65:2 73:11 75:7 93:7 136:5 145:8 147:15 machine 124:25 magnificent 92:16 magnitude 28:14 141:20 146:14 mail 5:14 41:10 150:10 maintain 28:4 30:3 52:22 57:6,13 96:12 135:8,12 136:2 maintenance 34:1 51:15 major 65:13 75:15,24 78:6 137:15 MALE 43:15,19 73:3,5,7	94:11,13,16,17,1 9 110:5,7 115:10 119:1 147:8 man 76:13 126:23 132:15 manage 9:25 40:18 41:19 managed 97:19 144:2 management 19:6 20:16 25:17 26:6,8,16 30:8,19,25 32:13,15 36:2 37:5 38:13 51:16 68:14 70:4 135:11,20 142:23 143:11 144:6 manager 1:14 4:3 17:14 75:15 manages 130:9 managing 53:18 manner 50:23 52:12 112:17 manufacturing 80:11 92:4 map 9:17 140:23 mapping 140:21 maps 26:21 March 5:9,25 150:8 151:17 Marcy 46:23 64:23 83:22 131:23 147:1 marine 57:4,7,9,12,18 89:18 Mark 129:13 Marsh 8:23 113:8 marshy 32:25 massive 51:2 120:24	master 106:9 material 81:17 materials 3:1 5:1 135:17 150:16 Matt 83:3 matter 37:17 112:21 Maumee 9:1 94:8,16 113:9 114:6 115:15 maximum 148:23 may 17:8 18:19 23:5 26:21 34:12 35:13 38:3 46:7 57:9 60:25 64:3 67:11 74:12 79:4 85:15,16 96:25 98:2,3 105:21 106:19 118:6 119:11 125:11 130:1 maybe 10:25 26:2 28:15 53:8 94:24 95:24 115:20 118:7,9 119:19,20 128:16 146:7 Mayfield 121:5 meal 101:17 mean 41:15 64:5 78:20 102:4 119:7,13 122:2,12 means 9:13 32:24 39:22 83:17,18,20 112:8 124:13 129:5 measure 52:20 measures 13:22 21:17 26:12 38:8,25 52:13 55:2 74:19 measuring 25:7
---	---	---	--

mechanical 52:10	99:19 100:4	72:24 84:21 90:6	40:18 41:22
mechanism 102:20	101:1 104:24	123:12 136:15	55:24 82:21
143:5	126:23 129:18	microphones 2:15	87:8,16 150:5
mechanisms 25:6	136:8,12,18,19	42:9 53:6	misinterpret
77:25 78:14 93:5	141:6,18 144:16	mid 32:22	130:17
141:25	148:4 149:1,10	middle 32:20	misplaced 84:22
143:21,22	Mentor 56:1,6	midst 131:1	mispronounce
media 14:19	merely 86:10	mid-system	43:12
medium 22:10	128:18	32:18,19	missed 113:15
meet 67:6,22	merganser	midyear 17:14	mission 12:7 48:15
107:11 143:22	82:13,15	migratory 80:22	53:21 97:10
meeting 1:5	mergansers 81:10	mike 44:2,7 73:4	102:8 127:3
2:6,9,17 3:2,3	mess 77:18	80:2 83:2 120:7	missions 34:7
4:11,21 5:3 6:2	message 45:21	146:2	Mississippi 1:3 2:7
16:8 39:11 40:12	messages 109:25	mile 83:11 111:9	9:8 12:10,18,23
45:1 53:24	120:20	147:23	16:25 22:1 29:18
150:15,18	Messina 127:13	miles 17:4 139:25	31:9 34:6 38:18
meetings 4:17	Meszaros 151:3,14	140:5,7	60:8 63:8 66:13
5:13,15 39:7,10	met 90:7	milestone 12:7	75:1 82:24 83:16
109:6 122:3,11	methods 12:25	military 148:9	86:14 111:10,17
134:20 141:13	26:8 46:10 52:19	millennium 91:21	115:8 140:22
melt 92:10	metropolitan	143:19	141:10,21
member 59:10	11:20	Millikan	150:19
68:13,15,19	Meyer 47:4	110:10,13,18	misspoke 130:1
69:2,9,11 79:22	53:4,7,12,17	million 10:9 11:21	mitigate 35:7 38:9
82:18 90:21	101:1 114:17,21	19:8 34:5 62:13	mitigated 33:15
105:13	115:11 116:19	63:16 75:25 76:1	mitigation 20:14
members 36:12	118:6,24	100:6,8 138:3,4	29:2 32:12 33:7
83:7 84:25 95:15	119:2,4,15,19,24	143:9	36:7 37:3
105:15 106:4	Michigan 13:14,17	millions 51:13	mixing 32:6
Memorial 121:20	19:11 27:16	74:22	Mm-hmm 116:18
memorialize	29:10,16 31:22	mills 95:2	model 139:4
134:24	33:12,25	Milwaukee 34:14	142:23
men 2:20	34:22,25 35:7	mind 2:13 10:11	modeling 114:7
mention 2:12,18	56:8 70:20	55:18 61:10 64:5	moderating 2:5
4:6 5:23 7:20	80:10,12,13,23	79:22 87:16	modern 91:12
8:11 14:17	84:9 124:3,5	mine 81:14	modernize 143:21
145:20 148:11	125:14,22	minimal 78:16	moment 3:21
mentioned	140:2,5 149:5	Minnesota 17:3	55:12 79:10
11:17,25 14:6	micro 118:14	125:23 127:13	moment's 131:12
18:3 19:22	microorganisms	141:9	momentum
22:4,12 26:16	117:13 118:14	minutes 16:13	109:20
36:8 37:24 38:14	microphone		
42:5 87:23 98:12	42:12,15 43:24		

Capital Reporting Company

Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study Public Meeting 01-16-2014

Page 24

monetize 93:18	135:18,19	129:20,23 136:1	13:22 21:17
money 77:25 78:4,13,20 79:2,17,19 85:21 88:12 91:10 94:22 100:24 102:10,16,20,21, 22 103:4,19,25 104:7 106:15 128:10 142:7,15	movement 12:8,22 67:8,16 70:9 113:5 140:10 moves 38:5 92:9 141:10 moving 10:10 14:14 29:19 30:15 52:3,7,13 73:12 148:19	nature 16:2 47:13 48:11,13,20 50:12 navigation 18:20,21 20:16 23:18 28:4 34:7,11 36:1 39:16 133:21 135:3,4,10,16	25:13 26:7,12 38:7,25 52:19 nor 13:8 125:6
monies 77:23 78:23	muddy 78:7	nearly 54:10 81:8,9 111:9	normal 28:16
monitor 30:5	Mulinex 58:25 59:2,4,5 61:5	necessarily 72:16 78:10 97:14	normally 135:17
monitoring 7:10 8:8 14:8 70:19	multibillion 117:8	necessary 20:15,17 33:5 37:7 60:23 71:20 107:8,11	north 141:4,23
monstrous 48:8	multiple 47:23 49:4 69:23	negligent 65:25	northeast 78:9
Montana 86:16	municipalities 142:18	neighboring 66:8	note 4:11 31:5 41:9 114:23 115:3 116:20 128:6,14
month 134:17 139:24	municipally 19:1,3	net 111:22	notes 151:6
months 17:22,23 81:15 119:8 149:12	mussel 77:18 105:7	nets 139:3	nothing 24:20 38:19 45:23 51:7 63:13 91:7 107:10 121:12
moon 76:13 126:24	mussels 105:9	networks 109:25	noticed 53:7 85:23 116:14
mortgage 95:22	mutual 37:1	news 14:18 40:1 111:25 112:15 121:21 146:22	novel 23:23
mostly 107:7	myself 77:1 81:20 106:10	nice 101:16 110:14,15	nth 20:24
mound 23:8	N	nine 56:10 137:25	nuisance 3:15 14:11 15:13 16:24 17:6 20:1,12 23:25 24:3,21,24 27:14,17,19 28:8 29:25 30:2,13,16 37:19 38:21 81:19 96:7,10,19 116:16 117:1,25 123:4 135:13
mount 51:10	Nate 95:12 96:5 98:24	nine-barge 57:17	O
mountainous 32:24 105:23	nation 65:5 91:1,22 124:9	Ninety 15:18	objective 13:4
mountains 105:9	national 50:22 68:17 81:5 98:22	noise 105:4	observational 82:14
move 4:5 10:25 11:4,6 19:4,14 21:10 30:11 31:25 40:11 46:2,15,16 54:22 56:3 60:24 78:18 86:20 95:1 115:22 119:9 132:10 142:1 146:24 148:24 149:9,13 150:1	nation's 65:11 96:16	none 30:4 49:1 143:10	obviously 31:13 32:7 70:3 77:12 83:15 103:12,15 110:19 116:1 125:2
moved 70:8	native 59:25 62:14,17,21 81:21 124:7	nonfederal 77:9 103:6,9	occurred 121:3
	natural 9:6 35:2,8 37:16 54:20 57:5 63:7,12,24 70:2 72:8 84:10,24 113:10	nonnavigable 30:24	
		nonpartisan 48:14	
		nonprohibitive 78:16	
		nonstructural	

<p>occurs 122:1</p> <p>o'clock 150:22</p> <p>ODNR 55:13 70:18,20</p> <p>OEC 53:23 126:14</p> <p>offense 66:10</p> <p>offensive 66:11</p> <p>offer 13:5 87:6</p> <p>offering 61:14</p> <p>office 1:18 6:13,14 53:14 68:14 70:3 102:2 123:2 124:20 149:7 150:11</p> <p>officer 76:25</p> <p>officers 127:7</p> <p>offices 128:22,25 148:3</p> <p>official 90:8</p> <p>officials 36:11 67:13 98:21,22 128:4,9 130:22 144:23</p> <p>offset 29:3</p> <p>OGNR's 68:13</p> <p>Oh 83:5 85:6</p> <p>Ohio 1:10 6:18,19,20,21 8:13,15 9:8 12:3 44:2,8 45:11,16 47:13 50:12 53:19,21,23 54:3,8,10,14 55:14 56:1,6 59:16 61:13 69:1,10 70:2,12,17,24 71:16 73:18 78:9 80:14 83:6 84:24 88:9 92:24 99:7,21,22,24 100:21 101:3,6 102:5 105:14 106:3 114:6</p>	<p>115:9,10,12 121:5 125:22 126:9 129:14 145:23 151:14</p> <p>Ohio's 70:11 100:5</p> <p>oil 131:11,14</p> <p>okay 44:16 46:23,25 50:8 53:12 55:21,23 57:16 58:6,23 64:22 76:22 90:15 95:16,17 103:21 105:10 106:1 118:25 119:2 123:10 130:24 132:20 136:6,8,16 138:1 145:7,9 146:9,20 147:7</p> <p>old 61:5,6</p> <p>ones 104:23 110:20 125:1 134:2</p> <p>one's 42:10</p> <p>one-way 29:9,11,15 30:4 48:23</p> <p>ongoing 10:8 140:15</p> <p>on-line 5:16 40:13</p> <p>onslaught 63:1</p> <p>Ontario 69:11</p> <p>onto 101:17 134:8</p> <p>open 14:25 35:20,22 36:1,4,6 41:6 57:19,24 87:7</p> <p>opened 33:8</p> <p>opening 40:4</p> <p>operate 30:5,7</p> <p>operating 14:5</p> <p>operation 25:2 34:1</p>	<p>opinion 79:6 82:6 112:24</p> <p>opportunities 4:18 12:15 31:7 59:20 60:12 61:3</p> <p>opportunity 16:17 40:16,25 41:3,6 61:16 62:5 69:17 74:6 75:13 81:12</p> <p>opposed 24:16 67:9</p> <p>opposite 67:19</p> <p>options 12:21 13:20 16:22 49:23 52:16 66:19 102:16 116:23</p> <p>oral 4:15 5:12,24 40:6,11 41:20 42:25</p> <p>order 19:16 28:4 34:4 43:3 134:17 136:6 145:1</p> <p>orders 28:14</p> <p>organization 37:10 42:13 47:7 48:15 50:10 96:12 98:5 145:2 148:12</p> <p>organizations 69:20 144:20</p> <p>organized 5:2</p> <p>oriented 77:12</p> <p>original 71:11,21 111:14</p> <p>originally 56:21 87:20</p> <p>Orleans 39:15 98:16 108:9 141:11</p> <p>others 67:24 75:21 98:3 112:1 142:25 149:4</p>	<p>other's 40:25</p> <p>otherwise 32:4 51:1</p> <p>Ottawa 99:17</p> <p>ought 107:22</p> <p>ourselves 98:20</p> <p>outcompete 62:16</p> <p>outfalls 33:11 35:6 135:25</p> <p>outlets 131:17</p> <p>outlined 13:22 111:9</p> <p>outlines 12:24</p> <p>outset 36:8</p> <p>outside 16:18 37:20 59:6 86:8 111:12</p> <p>outweigh 72:18</p> <p>overflows 92:1 143:1</p> <p>overnight 100:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>p.m 1:8 6:6 150:22</p> <p>page 133:13 134:8</p> <p>pages 14:22 15:1,5,8</p> <p>painful 46:22</p> <p>paint 13:4</p> <p>pair 28:6</p> <p>palatable 137:4</p> <p>panel 3:22 40:20 41:4 87:7 139:13 147:11 150:2</p> <p>paper 3:12,13 87:20</p> <p>parochial 129:5</p> <p>participating 14:4,7 16:8</p> <p>particular 8:16 10:21 21:6 28:25</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>31:6,11 33:16 35:6,17 61:18 108:5 111:19 113:24 117:21 135:22 137:24 particularly 49:15 98:24 parties 9:22 11:2 partner 103:5 130:7 partnered 113:4 partners 6:17 10:2 14:9,14 98:8 125:4,5 partnership 9:19 pass 63:2 74:13 passage 30:6 52:6 141:4 passion 13:15 149:6 past 7:13 8:6 34:16,17 35:13 66:11 68:16,20 69:5 80:20 105:1 119:15 120:18 137:1,11 path 79:15 pathway 18:8 20:1 37:20,22 111:18 113:19 130:2 pathways 8:13 17:4 18:4 19:22 22:22 55:14 111:24,25 patient 149:20 pause 10:17 pay 77:13,23 82:6 PDF 134:9 Peninsula 124:3 Pennsylvania 39:11,14 Pentagon 126:25</p>	<p>people 9:8 11:21 40:23 44:18 45:12,15,17 46:3,10 54:8 55:21 59:2 61:21 66:10 74:2,3,4,5 84:8,13 85:25 87:9 88:10 90:18 93:5,16 94:2,7,9,21 95:17 110:14 114:24 115:1,4,23 124:9 127:8,12,17,20 129:3 133:3,9,21 136:24,25 138:16,21 139:10,12 143:15 per 34:5 125:12 perceived 36:19 percent 18:25 34:9 60:9 62:19 84:11 86:2 103:14 117:2 125:15,20 132:7 percentage 34:8 99:25 perch 56:16 94:5 100:7 perched 112:13 Perfect 77:5 116:25 performed 22:8 perhaps 23:19 34:17 39:24 88:17 135:5 142:24 period 5:12,20,25 6:5,6 40:4,7,12 41:20 42:18 104:20 122:9 150:8 permanent 8:17 57:19 82:11 95:3 permanently</p>	<p>82:24 permits 41:4 119:12 person 40:17 45:18 68:8 77:3 84:8 102:2 130:23 147:4 personal 69:18 79:6 80:20 personally 125:25 138:11 personnel 13:12 perspective 75:14 129:7 Pertaining 134:11 phase 21:10 phone 121:10 phones 2:11 phonetic 144:14 physical 22:14 23:6,7 25:16 30:20,23 31:20,24 32:2,5 35:12,18,21 39:1 60:17 63:4 74:20 135:4 physically 63:7 physicist 80:10 picture 13:4 piece 3:12 17:12 111:24 134:21 pivotal 65:4 placed 31:20 places 32:20 62:17 63:14 95:1 122:19 142:9 plan 8:24 24:9,10,14 31:17 70:25 93:16 94:23 Planner 1:17 plans 7:3 13:8</p>	<p>plant 23:25 25:19 27:15,18,20,21 28:2 33:10,20 34:19 81:17 117:1 plants 24:4 26:15 28:9,14 33:17 95:2 116:17 117:16 please 4:11,13,15 15:8,16 39:22 41:8 42:15 46:13,15 47:7,15 49:22 56:4 58:21 63:24 64:19 68:23 73:14 75:8 80:6 85:5 87:15 93:8 95:10 99:4,13 115:2 120:7 130:17 139:1,17 pleased 48:18 107:4 pleasure 12:3 plenty 87:3 plumage 82:12 plume 105:6 plus 47:20 69:14 point 7:3 27:6,8,9 33:2 44:1 55:19 64:11 84:17 104:19 141:5 147:11 150:17 Pointe 80:10 81:2 pointed 49:19 54:17 points 27:7,9 28:7 29:7 31:16 32:3,20 33:18,21 92:11 111:2 141:23 149:13 policy 6:13 59:11 political 67:6 84:2,7 124:25 141:6</p>
--	---	--	---

<p>politically 141:13</p> <p>politicians 126:2 138:13</p> <p>pollutants 34:21</p> <p>pollution 102:14</p> <p>pond 7:23</p> <p>ponderous 96:25</p> <p>poorer 62:22</p> <p>population 62:12 94:5 115:18</p> <p>populations 25:18</p> <p>port 66:9 69:9 99:7</p> <p>Portage 83:14</p> <p>portion 33:9 121:16</p> <p>posing 108:11</p> <p>position 46:5</p> <p>positive 96:1</p> <p>possible 7:22 8:22 35:25 52:1 83:20 102:11 107:8 133:6 148:23</p> <p>possibly 97:2</p> <p>post 134:16</p> <p>posted 5:10</p> <p>potable 117:23</p> <p>potential 12:25 15:15 17:4,7 19:23 22:6 31:15 63:21 82:9</p> <p>potentially 33:23 72:10 113:20</p> <p>poultry 93:20</p> <p>pound 94:1</p> <p>pounds 93:23,25 100:6,8 131:19</p> <p>power 96:14 101:9</p> <p>powerboater 77:17</p>	<p>powerboats 106:9</p> <p>powerful 141:16</p> <p>PowerPoint 133:9</p> <p>powers 82:14</p> <p>practice 26:6 47:20,21 70:14</p> <p>practices 26:8,16 27:25 72:9</p> <p>precipitation 19:13 28:11,20 30:10,14 32:2,9 112:10</p> <p>predators 62:14 80:25</p> <p>prefer 24:17</p> <p>prepared 64:4 77:1 137:12</p> <p>preregistered 4:11 42:23 43:1 47:1</p> <p>presence 70:19</p> <p>present 5:4 12:4 21:13 36:21 66:22 107:19 110:24 112:2 141:2</p> <p>presentation 6:4 16:20 26:25 43:6</p> <p>presentations 5:19</p> <p>presented 5:6 16:15 47:25 133:7</p> <p>presenting 3:20</p> <p>presents 12:25</p> <p>preserve 44:19</p> <p>preserving 48:16</p> <p>president 69:5 105:20 124:19</p> <p>presidents 76:2</p> <p>pressure 8:7 19:16 114:20 130:19</p> <p>pretty 23:10 54:1 95:16 109:2</p>	<p>119:14</p> <p>prevent 12:8,15,22 13:15,16 15:19 16:23 17:6 20:11 23:8 25:21 26:12 31:13 50:24 51:21 54:18 66:5 70:9 132:4 148:23</p> <p>preventing 29:15 31:8 32:5 59:22 65:14 148:22</p> <p>prevention 12:25 14:10 25:11 27:5 29:6 38:16 74:19 135:13</p> <p>prevents 29:17</p> <p>previous 7:7 36:4 120:10</p> <p>price 49:25 50:3 75:3 82:6 93:21</p> <p>priceless 129:16</p> <p>primarily 18:13 20:1 30:23 36:7 98:6</p> <p>primary 14:23 19:21 123:19 135:9</p> <p>prime 115:15</p> <p>primer 14:23</p> <p>prior 111:21</p> <p>priorities 78:5 102:9</p> <p>prioritization 113:6</p> <p>prioritize 13:8</p> <p>prioritizing 78:25</p> <p>private 69:8 100:4</p> <p>privileged 48:10</p> <p>proactive 71:10 74:8</p> <p>probability 38:3</p>	<p>probably 18:24 37:2 95:14 104:3 106:25 119:14 134:9,17 139:20 140:24 148:11</p> <p>problem 57:8 63:18,20 88:9 89:20 127:5 129:6 141:19</p> <p>problems 45:5 47:23 53:6 95:22 146:15</p> <p>Procedurally 132:24</p> <p>proceed 108:8 145:1</p> <p>proceedings 151:5,9</p> <p>process 17:18 72:4 80:9 108:5,6,16,17,24 109:17,19 115:20 131:2,10 134:14 147:17 149:21</p> <p>processing 95:2</p> <p>produce 62:13</p> <p>produced 134:3</p> <p>productive 62:6 64:15</p> <p>professional 69:7</p> <p>professionally 69:15</p> <p>profit 138:22</p> <p>program 6:20,21,22 9:7 70:25 71:4,6</p> <p>programs 53:19</p> <p>progress 7:2,17 9:11 44:24 46:8,9 114:10</p> <p>progressing 141:16</p>
--	--	---	--

<p>progression 60:16 61:1</p> <p>prohibiting 96:2</p> <p>project 1:14 4:3,12,14 5:16 6:12,16 7:18 10:12 17:14 42:23 67:1 75:15,25 76:10 89:4 103:10 104:9 108:25 112:25 113:24 120:17 138:1 142:24 145:1 149:3</p> <p>projects 6:15 8:10 10:10,16 88:22 97:17 98:7 120:24</p> <p>prolific 70:1</p> <p>promise 95:21</p> <p>promulgated 25:15</p> <p>promulgation 25:24</p> <p>proof 118:7</p> <p>proper 19:9 63:22</p> <p>properties 23:19,20</p> <p>property 121:9</p> <p>proportions 82:10</p> <p>propose 75:25 110:21</p> <p>proposed 82:3 88:16</p> <p>proposes 88:17</p> <p>proposing 133:15</p> <p>protect 9:4,16 35:2 70:10 82:6 86:1 96:13 101:18 107:20 129:17 136:1</p> <p>protecting 52:4</p>	<p>65:10 73:21</p> <p>protection 75:5 85:18 97:13 119:12</p> <p>protector 105:13</p> <p>protectors 105:17</p> <p>protocol 104:14</p> <p>proud 61:24 83:23</p> <p>proven 10:15 126:21</p> <p>provide 15:11 52:20 147:17</p> <p>provided 80:9</p> <p>provides 36:9</p> <p>providing 38:23 113:12</p> <p>provinces 51:3 71:2 108:21 127:15</p> <p>public 1:5,9 2:6,9 4:17 5:3,13,14 6:2,5,6 13:6 14:13 16:8 25:23 26:1 36:12 39:6 40:4 79:22 81:24 83:24 88:25 115:21 150:8,18</p> <p>pull 26:4 108:18</p> <p>pulled 9:23</p> <p>punted 66:7</p> <p>purification 27:24</p> <p>purify 131:13</p> <p>purpose 13:3 32:5 138:9</p> <p>purpose-built 23:18</p> <p>purposes 133:17</p> <p>purse 88:20</p> <p>pursue 67:4</p> <p>push 138:2 147:6</p> <p>pushing 89:10</p>	<p>puts 35:18</p> <p>putting 26:4 79:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <hr/> <p>qualitatively 22:9</p> <p>quality 1:16 3:24 10:1,3 20:17 37:5 75:3 135:11,24</p> <p>quantity 22:9</p> <p>question 3:5 40:15,17,19 65:24 76:2,7,11,14,16 87:7,19 95:24 102:18 108:11 110:21 111:6 116:11 123:1,4,7 128:17 130:14 133:11</p> <p>questions 3:14 5:18 24:12 39:23 40:22 41:5 77:7 116:24 132:22</p> <p>queue 43:3</p> <p>quick 7:1 16:1 74:15 79:10 89:6 96:6 132:22</p> <p>quickly 46:2 51:4 54:22 63:23 72:11 114:23 116:12,13 142:5 146:25</p> <p>quiet 114:11</p> <p>quit 42:4</p> <p>quite 23:6 28:18 45:6 46:9 60:4 88:1 92:20 132:1 140:17 143:23 146:19</p> <p>quo 74:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <hr/> <p>Rachel 81:24</p>	<p>raid 116:7</p> <p>raided 116:10</p> <p>rail 57:4,7,9 89:18 135:19</p> <p>rain 30:15 121:20</p> <p>rainfall 112:10</p> <p>Rainkey 144:14 145:7</p> <p>raise 128:2,3</p> <p>ran 67:20</p> <p>range 12:21 13:20 15:5 16:15,22 18:17 20:10,22 22:11 24:24 25:4 109:1</p> <p>ranging 22:14</p> <p>ranking 90:20</p> <p>rate 105:23 141:4 142:20</p> <p>rather 48:23 51:7 57:6</p> <p>Rayburn 90:12,14 139:20</p> <p>RE 1:3</p> <p>reach 109:10</p> <p>reaching 53:2</p> <p>readers 13:1</p> <p>reading 15:7 77:6 133:12</p> <p>ready 73:11 75:9 99:3 104:12 112:13 123:15 129:11 136:5</p> <p>real 38:2 45:10 60:16 69:15 106:5,14 114:10</p> <p>realistic 71:5</p> <p>realize 138:13</p> <p>really 4:21 16:8,18 20:4 21:24 22:17 28:9 35:14 36:13 44:23 45:12,19</p>
---	--	--	---

46:3,6 55:14 65:17 75:2 76:3,11 79:15,18,23 86:21 88:1,25 89:2 96:17 97:1,13,15 98:14,18 100:19 104:4 108:5,11 110:13 112:12,18 113:15 115:14,19 116:6,8,9 125:23 129:7,24 132:22 137:10 138:11,12,17 141:14 reason 17:12 30:22 56:12 66:6 96:20 112:6 149:8 reasonable 93:13 132:9 reasons 33:22 43:13 86:19 125:3 140:13 141:15 receive 134:14 150:15 received 17:15,19,22 receives 77:9 receiving 14:20 111:21 recent 63:1 74:10 111:18 recently 84:25 117:8 121:18 reclaim 93:2 reclaimed 91:19 reclamation 33:10,17,20 34:19 91:4,17 102:12 130:9	142:11 143:6 recognize 109:1 recommend 24:5,6 58:16 recommendation 11:4 66:4 recommendations 10:18 13:8 70:15 130:11,12 133:19 recommended 31:15 recommending 135:21 record 2:15 42:17 43:9,25 44:15 46:19 48:13 recording 134:13 recreation 18:21 74:23 recreational 51:10 69:16 70:7 78:15,17 131:25 red 5:20 42:3 82:15 141:9 Redfield 76:21 80:1,3,7 82:17 reduce 8:6 9:10 52:13 reduced 112:6 reduction 25:9 31:7 38:15 redundancy 71:25 72:14 refer 2:8 103:6 122:4 123:1 referenced 93:5 referring 81:18 refined 22:6 reflexively 67:9 refrigerated 94:25 regard 20:7 22:19	24:20 25:1 31:5 32:11 38:12 40:2 45:10 79:15 96:10 97:4,18 98:6 103:3 112:2 126:23 144:23 region 32:23 39:8,17 51:13 53:1 54:4 65:5,11 66:2 78:9 90:23 91:7 143:9 regional 6:25 14:4 88:21 125:4 regionally 128:23 regions 133:3 region's 65:7 75:3 register 48:3 registered 4:14 43:4,19 84:18 86:25 87:5 114:15 registration 3:4 40:14 42:24 regularly 6:24 81:4 regulate 94:6 regulations 25:24 regulatory 122:24,25 128:18 reiterate 40:7 60:6 71:18 relate 92:2 related 51:15 relative 121:2 relatively 96:10 98:9,10 relatives 124:2 reliability 52:9 relieve 19:16 remain 59:21	remainder 31:15 remaining 41:9,25 58:8 remains 14:13 remark 77:1 remarks 49:1 remediation 35:5 135:24 remember 10:4 61:19 90:12,13 119:20 remind 42:1 64:3 150:7 removal 51:15 removing 34:5,8 repel 7:23 reply 102:7,19 report 3:18 4:19,20,23 5:5,7,8 6:4,13 7:16 8:12 12:11,24 13:3,7,23 14:17 15:1,2,7 16:16 17:21,24 20:2,4,6,8 23:1,5,13 36:9,22 37:21 38:13 40:8 48:19 49:7 52:20,22 57:14 70:16 79:14 86:8 89:7 106:13 111:19 115:14 116:13 129:1,4,18 134:8,19 reporter 134:12 151:4 reporting 42:7 106:5 reports 13:19 18:8,10 113:19 114:2 report's 13:18
--	--	--	--

represent 42:14 47:12,13 50:12 73:18 representation 108:19 representative 53:8 87:23 representatives 103:12 113:4 144:19 represented 47:21 109:18 representing 68:17 69:6,8,21 76:25 represents 66:21 reproduce 131:15,16 reproducing 62:11 Republican 88:15,18 145:22 146:1 Republicans 88:19 reputation 138:18 request 40:18 142:2 require 9:19 39:1 required 21:9 77:10 reroute 33:16 35:2 rerouting 33:20 research 7:17 14:7 60:19 118:20 Reserve 59:7 reservoirs 28:21 31:1 33:5 reside 54:8 resident 61:15 105:12 129:14 residents 19:8 28:23 29:3 37:14 101:12	residual 37:18 resilient 62:23 resolve 149:12 resource 21:20 35:3,8 36:12 98:6,22 112:20 resources 14:1 37:7,16 39:2 50:22 52:5 68:14 70:3 84:24 96:12 113:10 129:20,23 136:1 respect 49:5 respectful 40:24 respond 128:1 responding 128:17 response 40:20 66:24 103:1 120:20 responsibility 4:8 14:12 38:22 97:15,16,20,22 104:4 129:19 responsible 11:20 29:14 130:6 rest 34:13 86:12 130:13 restaurants 56:16 100:16 restoration 10:7 25:6 97:12 116:7 146:11 restore 54:20 63:6,12,24 71:21 97:7 restores 72:7 restoring 55:8 97:8 restrooms 2:21 result 92:3 resulted 100:5 121:19	results 58:3,6 122:15 retained 133:15 retired 47:20 76:25 revenue 63:16 78:24 107:16 reversed 125:1 reverted 125:15 rid 117:14,15 rightly 49:3 rights 78:18 rise 13:17 risk 22:8,10 25:9 28:22 29:3 31:7,23 32:15 33:5 35:25 38:9,15 52:10,13 62:1,7 71:22 75:17 82:22 100:25 107:15 113:24 148:23 risked 63:9 risks 37:18,19 rival 142:8 River 1:3 2:7 6:20 9:8 12:10,18,23 16:25 19:1 22:1 29:18 31:10 33:9 34:6 38:18 60:8 63:8 66:13 71:16 75:1 78:7 81:3 82:25 83:12 111:1,3,11,17 115:8,9,10,12,15 ,18 125:2,11,16 130:6 141:9 150:19 rivers 1:18 6:20 61:22 62:10 86:13 94:20 121:23 122:21 141:8 RMR 151:3,14	road 29:12,17 72:10 102:17 115:1 121:5 roadblocks 138:7,14 Rocky 71:16 role 97:2 rolling 121:24 room 15:15 44:18 107:7 115:23 148:1 roughly 15:5 routinely 70:18 RPT 57:15 rubble 121:7 ruled 136:22 rules 44:4 run 15:4 94:8 117:19 138:7 139:11 running 78:7 runs 5:25 14:5 121:9 150:8 rushes 57:25 Russell 121:15,19 Russia 89:17 137:3 rust 28:19 <hr/> S <hr/> safe 119:14 sail 61:21 sailboats 106:9 salmon 94:8,10 Sam 84:23 sample 7:10 sampled 7:12 Sam's 115:7 Sandusky 66:9 106:10
---	---	---	---

115:15,18 Sanitary 35:19,22 125:17 sanitary/ship 147:24 sat 124:16 save 44:15 62:3 67:15,17,23 saving 79:19 saw 81:9 87:13 115:17 136:4 scale 31:2,3 119:9,10 scaups 81:11 scenario 33:16 46:8 135:14 schedule 3:2 77:8 scheduled 6:6 139:11 science-oriented 48:15 scope 48:19 81:9 Scott 110:18 111:7 scour 116:14 screens 28:1 117:14 118:11,12 sea 9:24 seal 112:23 seasonally 125:15 Seattle 148:4 Seaway 92:23,25 143:6,20 second 5:5 29:5,11 36:3 41:7 125:12 127:25 141:5 secondly 133:5 seconds 41:24 42:1,2 49:9 52:24 58:4 61:4 63:19 67:10	70:22 82:16 89:12 92:14 106:12 125:18 131:20 142:6 144:11 Secretary 92:20 secure 53:22 sediment 35:4 135:24 sediments 33:12 seeing 77:7,17 seem 88:20 93:13 seemed 88:9,23 seems 55:5 66:7 78:1 79:1 93:14,15 102:3,15 seen 32:16 46:8 82:11,12 85:10 104:21,23,25 105:1,5,7 110:4,11 122:8 140:10 148:12 select 108:16 Senate 44:21 45:4 send 109:25 sending 126:10 senior 68:19 sense 45:7,10 60:2 66:25 103:2 118:5 126:19 127:18 129:4,5 141:3 sensible 49:13 sent 41:16 separate 8:17 63:7,11 82:24 114:5 separates 107:5 separating 132:10 separation 21:15 31:18,20 32:19	35:12 38:10 39:1 45:24 49:12 51:21 52:17 54:25 57:23 60:17 63:4 66:12,19,23,24 67:4 70:12,14 71:20 72:7,12 74:15,20 82:3,11 83:16 93:15 126:16 133:20 135:2,15 136:20 separations 32:11 septicemia 117:18 series 28:21 76:1 117:14 serious 110:1 133:20 143:23 146:24 serve 59:7 90:19 97:2 117:25 served 84:25 serves 19:5,20 25:7 Service 70:20 Services 113:11 serving 144:1 session 48:2 setting 79:3 seven 19:25 54:11 125:8 seven-year 71:6 sever 55:14 several 4:17,21,25 13:4 15:10 39:7 66:19 90:18 109:6,7 120:20 121:10 severe 72:1 120:25 121:15,19,20 sewer 33:11 35:6 92:1 135:25 142:25	shallowest 69:25 share 69:21 116:2 133:8 142:22 shared 14:12 38:21 97:15 104:3 133:8 Shaw 1:18 90:2 145:12,14 shed 86:7 95:25 sheetpile 23:7 she's 42:6 Shields 126:6 Ship 7:9 35:19,22 125:17 shippers 78:19 shipping 80:18 129:21 130:20 136:21,23 141:21 ships 141:25 shock 55:5 shore 131:22 shorelines 96:13 shores 29:10 64:15 short 12:13 18:14 62:4 68:8 85:3,8 109:12 132:5 shorter 31:3 shot 88:17 shows 60:19 63:3 100:2 107:17 118:15 sick 73:16 sickens 82:2 sides 8:8 Sierra 126:9 127:23 sign 4:12,15 signed 43:7 120:2 significance 112:5
--	--	--	---

<p>significant 6:19 18:22 19:6,13,16 28:11,12 30:9,18 31:23 32:1,8,10,15 34:2,4,8,10,21,2 4 35:2,8 37:6,16 39:1,2 82:10 112:9 135:3 136:1</p> <p>significantly 29:1 31:4</p> <p>silence 2:11</p> <p>silver 80:16,25</p> <p>silvers 8:6</p> <p>similar 23:10 26:23 72:9 117:12</p> <p>simple 23:11</p> <p>simpler 112:18</p> <p>simplest 134:10</p> <p>simply 24:1 50:3 60:19 86:17,19</p> <p>Simpson 146:3</p> <p>simultaneously 57:19</p> <p>single 11:3 21:8 27:5,6 38:24 72:15 133:13</p> <p>sir 12:5 16:6 44:4 46:18 49:21 50:5 68:5,22 71:8,13 73:2 76:19 79:8 84:16,20 85:4 86:24 90:5 95:7,9 99:2,12 101:23 104:12 106:22,23 110:6,17 122:17 123:3,11,15 129:11 130:14 132:13 149:23</p> <p>sit 28:18 132:22 147:19</p>	<p>site 8:21 120:21</p> <p>sites 18:8,10 92:2 111:12 112:6,7,24 113:6,7,16,21 114:8</p> <p>site-specific 113:18</p> <p>sitting 83:8,23 103:4 108:7 125:21</p> <p>situation 65:23 76:7 89:21 123:22 127:3</p> <p>six 61:5 66:15 137:19 140:9</p> <p>six-year-old 59:18</p> <p>size 28:8</p> <p>sized 140:8</p> <p>Ski 124:19</p> <p>Sleeping 81:4,15</p> <p>slide 17:1 41:21,23 141:1,2</p> <p>slides 15:25 35:14 41:18 133:6 134:3,9</p> <p>slow 9:9 60:15 61:1 97:1 113:23</p> <p>slowed 60:18</p> <p>slowly 42:16 122:1 141:16</p> <p>small 14:22 33:6 63:2 74:13 79:4 81:16 82:6 105:21 140:6 142:11</p> <p>smaller 31:2 126:15</p> <p>smart 74:3 110:14,19</p> <p>snow 92:10</p> <p>snowballing 51:8</p>	<p>softens 78:21</p> <p>sold 99:24</p> <p>solicit 5:5</p> <p>solution 9:18 23:7 48:20 49:5 52:5 53:2 60:17,24 63:5,10,23,24 66:14 72:14 79:20 93:13 95:3 107:5 109:13 114:3 118:20</p> <p>solutions 60:20 75:20 93:17 133:14</p> <p>solve 122:14 141:19</p> <p>somebody 5:20 79:1 105:8 116:2 124:1</p> <p>somehow 78:1 124:6 141:11</p> <p>someone 97:22 133:4</p> <p>sometime 114:5</p> <p>somewhere 30:10 133:10</p> <p>son 59:19</p> <p>sons 83:13</p> <p>sooner 38:15 102:16 106:20</p> <p>sorry 22:9 27:10 47:15 56:5 64:18 68:24 73:15 94:18 99:17 110:8 114:21 119:4 120:3 126:6 136:9,17</p> <p>sort 14:23 28:22 120:10 122:21</p> <p>sorted 49:11</p> <p>sorting 78:4</p> <p>sound 46:7</p> <p>sounded 88:15</p>	<p>source 81:3 116:5 121:22 122:20</p> <p>sources 78:24</p> <p>south 7:11 8:4 121:16 141:24</p> <p>southerly 69:25</p> <p>southern 88:8 104:19</p> <p>spanning 51:3</p> <p>spans 17:2,3</p> <p>spawn 106:18</p> <p>speak 4:10 16:10 20:6 41:1,6,15,22 42:14,21 43:4 44:9 48:5 61:16 75:13 79:21 80:12,14 87:12 113:14 120:6 126:18 136:15 139:11,12</p> <p>speaker 43:15,19 73:3,5,7 90:9 94:11,13,16,17,1 9 110:5,7 115:10 119:1 147:8</p> <p>speakers 6:3 71:3</p> <p>speaking 90:17 123:25</p> <p>special 56:18</p> <p>species 3:15 8:20 9:15,25 12:8,17 14:3,11 15:13 16:24 17:7 18:9 20:2,12 22:3,5,20,22 23:25 24:3,21,24 25:19 26:14 27:5,8,15,17,19, 23 28:2,9 29:6,15,17,25 30:2,6,14,16 31:8,9,12 37:19,25 38:4,16,21 48:21</p>
---	---	--	---

49:14 51:1,16,25 52:2 54:18 55:2 56:24 59:23,24 60:1 62:8,20,21,24 69:22 74:17 81:8,14 86:7 96:2,7,8,10,19,2 0 97:4,5,18 100:7,21 102:14 111:16 112:5,11,13 116:17,21 117:1,22 118:1,8 123:5 135:13 specific 10:20 46:15 70:14 96:9,17 118:3 121:2 specifically 18:1 25:1 26:14 27:23 32:12 37:22 49:10 73:22 97:11 103:18 117:9 119:6 123:2 125:23 144:24 145:5 specifics 120:12 Speck 84:23 85:6,8 specter 82:1 speech 85:3,8 speed 57:14 spelling 144:15 spend 16:13 18:12 27:1 59:16 73:18 102:22 spending 100:15 101:8 spends 132:7 spent 48:24 85:22 92:20 100:13,24 101:4 split 29:9 spoke 84:4,9 92:19	102:2 138:20 143:17 sponsor 77:9 sponsored 25:5 sponsors 103:6 sport 46:5 51:17 80:19 100:10,11 spots 100:22 spread 9:9 14:10 15:13 50:24 51:9 spreads 13:9 St 78:18 80:23 81:3 92:22 143:6,19 stab 96:6 staff 56:22 87:21,22 staffers 88:8 stage 2:23 stake 9:14 stakeholder 11:2 17:11,17 52:25 108:6,17 109:1,8 stakeholders 13:6 39:3,13,16 49:4 122:14 stakevoters 49:6 stand 25:25 26:11 37:9 standing 76:12 Stansberry 73:4 80:2 83:2,3,4,6 95:11,12 Stark 47:2,11 50:9,11,16,19 52:25 53:3 108:1 start 24:7 41:21 42:20 47:8,16 50:6 54:23 67:12 95:20 103:24 115:25 116:3 122:12 146:16	started 17:14 22:5 109:7 starting 3:22 9:23 79:2 starts 104:6 state 6:17 13:24 14:9,12 21:19 24:23 36:11 41:12 44:7 46:3 50:9 54:9,12 60:15 73:18 77:21 83:13 87:15 97:21 101:6,12 113:1,4,11 114:2 117:7 119:13 125:7 130:5 144:1,18 146:17 151:14 stated 72:17 122:14 130:21 statement 40:15 42:4 44:14 46:21 47:3 48:12 50:17 55:19 99:20 139:1 statements 45:3 49:22 71:8 77:7 states 9:7,12,13,16,20 10:15 44:21,23 51:3 68:18 71:1 73:25 85:2 88:4 90:25 91:5 93:1 102:6 103:8 108:20 112:20 125:8 127:14,16 129:20 130:3,13 131:5 137:8 140:20 143:13 stating 115:14 Station 121:5 stations 14:19 statistically 125:15 statistics 100:18	status 7:2 74:14 stay 39:22 40:1 91:14,15 stays 100:16 steelhead 94:11 100:7 stenographer 2:15 42:6 134:12 Stenotype 151:6 Stenotypy 151:4 step 15:1 79:16 108:14 131:7 stepping 2:13 steps 6:11 10:23 11:10 21:24 38:7,8 54:23 60:25 109:9 stepwise 72:4 stern 57:24 Steven 56:21 87:21 stewards 124:12 stick 25:8 sticker 55:5 stinks 105:7 stones 23:8 stood 105:2 stop 9:9 27:7 52:6,7 76:13 stopped 80:17 stopping 9:14 52:3 store 32:7 story 112:16 strange 137:10 strategic 56:8 65:7 strategy 7:4,19 67:7 stream 19:3 28:13 streams 107:16
--	--	--	---

street 48:22	successful 96:2 111:23	120:16 134:15	tactical 70:25
stress 60:2	successfully 33:4	sure's 146:3	tag 75:3
stretch 8:4	sudden 33:8	surface 23:9 32:6 86:2	tags 49:25
stretching 129:1	sue 44:11	surprised 18:24	taking 30:15 34:3 62:24 72:3 73:19
strictly 26:20	sufficient 36:14	surrounding 29:4 125:8	79:13 112:17 114:2 115:4 140:16
strings 88:20	suggestions 10:20 109:8	suspect 66:20	talk 15:25 23:3 53:12 67:25 74:6
strong 74:18 117:21 126:2 128:4	suggests 27:13 35:17	sustained 24:17	75:22 89:8 116:16,19 133:22 137:15 147:4
struck 48:7	suitable 49:17	Sutton 92:24	talked 46:10 50:21 54:15 88:7 119:16 136:24 137:2,14 140:13 145:24 146:1 147:23
structural 52:11,18	summarize 36:21 51:4	swans 81:10	talker 53:13
structure 25:16 77:24 142:8	summary 3:18 14:21,22 133:6 134:19,21	swim 59:19 149:5	talking 10:12 16:13 18:12 84:4 85:21 86:4,6,9,11 94:22 102:5 108:19 115:4 146:15,21 147:25
structured 108:18	summer 59:17	swimming 61:20	tampering 146:16
structures 77:21 123:19	summon 67:6 84:6	switching 35:23	tanks 94:25
stuck 114:25	Sunday 81:8	system 7:5 17:8,9 18:2,14,17,22 19:3,10,12,20 20:3 22:2 27:11 28:3 29:12,16,20 30:21 32:20 33:1 34:6,7 35:15 51:23 57:2,5,7,23 62:25 65:15 72:15,16 89:8,14,18 91:13,16 92:16 111:13 112:3,19 117:20 125:20 130:10 135:10 136:13,18,19 137:24 143:20	task 102:10
studied 83:18	sunlight 82:13	systems 25:3 30:7 35:24 51:2 57:11,12 69:23 130:9 137:18,21 142:13 144:1	tax 77:24
studies 63:1 140:15	sunny 81:9		taxes 54:13 77:23
studying 140:18	Superior 1:10		taxpayers 63:16
stuff 77:19 94:22 118:12	supervise 120:17		team 5:2 6:16,23 13:9 18:15 32:13
style 57:20	supplies 54:12		teams 7:17 9:8
subject 13:24	supply 18:22		technical 113:12
submission 12:10	support 11:1 75:2 83:25 109:24 113:13		technically 134:15
submit 3:5,8 5:17 74:6 99:9 101:13 150:11	supported 70:12		techniques 20:22
submitted 5:13,15	supporting 66:12		technologies 7:15 12:21 13:21
submitting 55:10 74:5	supports 54:13		
Subsequent 121:12	suppose 65:1		
substantial 140:10	supposed 43:16		
suburbs 19:9,19 29:4 30:11	Supreme 58:18 125:9 136:22		
success 9:21 97:17	sure 36:25 42:7 43:9 55:4 59:19 64:9 65:18 67:1 72:2 73:10 74:4 76:6 85:6 107:4 115:22 118:10		
successes 98:4			

15:18 16:22 21:16 23:4 35:12 55:1 technology 27:4 29:5 105:20,21 technology-based 26:20 ten 31:3 62:11 76:13,18 95:14 100:22 126:24 term 52:10,18 61:1 72:9 105:22 109:11,12 terms 78:22 86:7 117:12 terrain 121:24 test 7:21 119:10 testament 101:9 testify 55:21 testimony 99:10 150:5 testing 70:18 116:22 118:21,22 tests 7:23 text 114:24 thank 4:6 6:18 11:7,14,23 12:4 16:6,7 40:3 44:8,16 46:17,18 47:14 50:5,15,18 53:2,3,24,25 55:13,15,16,22 58:23,24 61:6,7,15 63:25 64:1,12,13,24 65:2 67:24 68:1,25 71:12,13 72:20,21 75:6,7,12 76:18,19 79:7,9,23,25 82:23,25 83:1 84:16 85:7 86:23,24 89:25	93:6,7 95:6,7 96:4 98:23 99:5,15 101:19,20 104:10 106:20,21,22 107:24,25 114:12,17 119:24 120:1 122:16,17 123:9,11,16,18 126:2,4 129:10,12 132:12,13 134:1 138:10 139:7,8 144:4,9,10 145:7,8,9 147:9,15,16 149:19,23 150:2,6 Thanks 6:10 40:5 84:15 96:5 101:21,22 110:2 119:25 150:3 that's 3:2,15 7:10 8:14 9:2,25 15:15 20:2 23:12 27:13 29:21 33:18 34:17 35:1 36:6 38:5 41:19 42:20 43:12 49:1 53:25 55:15,21 65:9 77:14 79:13,23 85:22 89:23 95:16,17 98:15 100:1 102:18 104:6,16 114:22 118:2 120:8 121:1 122:9 124:1 128:4 130:22,23 135:21 136:21 137:4,8 138:19 139:4 140:9,16 themselves 23:3 112:8 theoretically 108:20	therein 151:10 there's 2:20 5:16 9:6 11:3 13:10 15:2 30:6 38:2 45:7 56:18 69:23 74:1 88:1 100:17 110:13 111:9 112:9,11,25 113:17 114:19,25 115:20 118:17 119:20 120:22 133:1 140:14 141:7 148:10 150:9 Thereupon 150:21 they'd 40:14 47:3 they're 26:13 55:13 60:8 62:10 74:2 91:9 95:5 112:11 124:6,9 133:9 139:25 they've 58:13 74:3 third 4:21 7:6 54:10 73:8 101:7 131:23 Thirty 49:9 52:24 58:4 61:4 63:19 67:10 70:22 82:16 89:12 92:14 106:12 125:18 131:20 thousands 61:21 67:2 threat 9:10 48:8 62:5 81:23 95:5 threats 65:13 71:22,25 three-minute 40:15 41:2 three-other-old 59:18 throughout 4:17 59:21 122:8 throw 127:22	thwarting 49:13 tie 56:19 tilt 68:6 timeline 10:13 21:11 34:20 35:9 37:7 41:2 76:4 timely 52:12 timer 42:20 tiny 132:4,6 tired 104:3 106:25 TNC 54:2 today 8:12 10:12 11:4 16:20 17:16 18:13 25:12 26:11,25 27:16 30:8 34:18 36:24 37:9 39:8,19,24 40:14,22 41:12,15 43:4 48:10 49:2 59:14 61:14 69:21 79:13 92:20 93:6 105:19 109:9 122:14 134:3,4,12,24 135:5 136:3 143:15 144:10 today's 2:7 Toledo 66:9 114:24 tonight 3:6,10,20 4:8 5:1 6:7 11:17 12:4,17 14:11 15:20,22 16:7,9 17:13 38:20 40:24 41:19 42:6 53:24 55:12 64:5,7 68:10 74:1 98:25 99:19 107:3,14 110:14 128:3 133:7 138:18 145:10 149:16,25 150:4 tonight's 3:22 40:12 147:12
---	--	---	---

tons 105:7	111:16 112:5,12	75:20 92:21	types 75:19
tool 19:6 20:5	113:20	95:22 97:1	typewritten 151:7
top 69:12 78:8	transferring 37:19	109:10 113:5	typically 132:25
100:22 119:20	transfers 26:13	131:6 135:7	
topped 100:12	translate 109:23	146:15 149:9,13	
Toronto 56:10	transmitted 14:18	150:1	<hr/> U <hr/>
total 18:25 33:25	transport 37:23,24	trying 2:15 11:9	U.S 2:4 4:1,4
34:9,24 38:10	transportation	18:17 25:10	67:20 84:25
touch 39:22	52:23	27:7,21 38:16	124:19
115:24 140:3	transporting	53:16 90:12	ultimate 79:20
touched 129:4	37:25	94:21 96:22	145:6
tough 66:6	travel 45:11 51:2	97:6,10 98:8	ultimately 63:13
tourism 54:9 61:2	80:13 92:5	101:18 103:16	70:13 86:14
101:8 102:2	125:11	107:20 113:16	144:22
toward 38:9 103:9	traveled 80:14	116:4 119:7	umbrella 143:8,19
towards 19:15	95:18	128:19 135:12	unbiased 129:7
31:10	traveling 145:24	142:21 146:21	Unchecked 51:9
township	travels 125:14	149:8	undermine 75:4
121:15,19 122:3	trawlers 139:3	tug 57:17 89:10	understand 36:19
trade 47:19 142:2	treat 27:13	137:25	45:12 46:4 60:22
tradeoffs 36:17	treated 19:2,4 24:3	tugging 149:8	98:2,3 102:7,19
trade-offs 21:18	treatment 23:25	tune 23:21	110:25 127:6
traditional 20:21	24:4	tunnel 135:22	129:9 132:9,11
23:16 27:20,24	27:15,17,20,21,2	tunnels 28:21 31:1	141:20 147:24
57:6,20	5 28:9,14 116:17	33:5,19	148:18
traditionally	117:1,6,7,9,10,1	turbulent 67:21	understanding
24:15 96:11	9 118:19 119:17	turn 3:7 6:8 11:11	37:1 38:20
103:5	Trent-Severn	123:12	103:17 129:25
traffic 57:13	57:1,3	turned 64:10	understands 45:19
train 118:19	tried 113:3 116:14	136:16	65:22
training 127:10	129:6 135:11	turning 130:15	undertaken 3:15
transcribed 151:6	trips 83:9 100:3	turns 42:3	16:3
transcript	trophic 82:9	TV 121:21	undoing 32:4
151:5,8,10	trouble 78:24	TWC 126:14	unexpected 10:5
transcripts 134:18	trout 100:7	127:16	unfortunately
transfer 8:20	truck 135:19	Twitter 40:1	48:25 128:20
12:16 13:16	true 65:24 139:25	twofold 17:5 112:7	unhinged 128:16
15:19 16:23 17:6	151:10	two-way 29:8	uniform 148:8
20:12 23:9 25:21	truly 91:20	48:22 51:24	unilaterally 125:2
26:14 27:5 28:7	try 35:24 36:13	52:22	uninhabitable
29:15 31:14	56:23 58:14	type 25:14 32:24	84:13,15
		57:9 96:3 116:24	unique 13:18
		139:5	69:17 98:9

108:25 140:9 148:8 United 44:21 68:18 85:1 88:4 137:8 unless 88:24 unmet 91:24 untreated 23:9 update 7:1 41:24 upfront 87:10 upon 57:24 81:23 upper 35:15 89:16 124:3 upset 81:21 upwards 82:4 urge 85:15 86:20 115:25 116:6 urgency 45:7,10,21 60:2,6,22 65:23 71:24 126:19 127:18 urgent 74:15 usefully 86:9 users 17:8 142:17 USGS 115:13 utilized 19:24 23:5 30:24 118:4 utilizing 52:18 UV 28:1 116:19 117:6,10,11,19 119:16 <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;">V</div> <hr/> vacation 116:13 vacuum 56:18 valley 121:25 141:10 valuable 109:11 value 59:16 70:10 valued 51:19	variety 12:24 24:6 39:3 142:17 various 13:2,12,24 14:8 75:19 78:3 105:18 115:5 134:20 136:24 140:20 vehicles 78:13,17 verifiable 58:7 versus 108:8,9 vessels 28:6 106:8 via 135:18,19 viable 52:16 vice 76:2 viewed 4:24 40:8 56:10 viral 117:18 virus 117:18 visibly 58:7 vision 93:3 visit 81:4 120:21 Visitors 99:18 visual 41:18 vital 62:20 136:21 vitality 54:7 voice 39:16 73:16 98:14 128:3 149:16,18 voices 98:19 volume 18:25 140:21,22 141:12 volumes 141:21 volunteering 56:7 voracious 81:18 vote 83:24 vulnerable 49:16 <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;">W</div> <hr/> Wabash 9:1 111:1	113:9 114:5 [REDACTED] 114:15 120:2,4,8,9 122:18 123:6,10 wait 62:2 63:18 71:3 110:10 146:23 waiting 55:21 65:16 78:2 wake 66:1 walk 149:7 walked 148:24 wall 23:8 walleye 56:16 94:12,13,14,19 99:7 100:6 Walter 47:4 warm 49:16 warning 45:4 warrants 63:22 wash 131:21 Washington 90:13,18 139:21,24 141:14 wasn't 32:24 49:2 103:20 141:1 waste 74:10 wastewater 19:2,4 27:21 water 7:24 10:1,3 18:22 19:11,14 20:17 24:2 26:4 27:13,15,22,24,2 5 28:13,20 30:7,11,12,14,15 32:1,3,6 33:10,17,20,24 34:4,8,9,19 36:2 37:5 52:5 53:19,22 57:25 58:9 59:9 86:3 90:19 92:9 96:12	97:8,25 98:6 101:18 117:7,10,24 118:4 119:16 122:22 124:2,13 125:13,20 130:8,9 131:13,15,17 135:10,23 142:13,14,17 145:25 waterborne 74:21 waterfowl 81:10 104:24 waterfront 101:16 waters 23:9 48:16 57:23 58:1 100:5 105:6 124:4,5 watershed 17:1 54:19 61:15 63:8 66:13 71:17,21 83:16 121:14,16 watersheds 48:22 52:17 63:12 107:6 132:10 waterway 7:5 17:9 18:2,13,15,17 19:2,10,20 20:3 22:2 23:8 26:5 29:19,22 34:6 35:15 51:23 57:2 110:23 111:12,20 112:3,18 117:13 130:4,6 133:17 135:1,4,18 waterways 14:8 96:13 97:8 Wayne 8:23 9:2 114:6 ways 9:9 37:23 104:9 144:2 wearing 68:10 126:8 weather 72:1
--	--	--	---

<p>114:25 website 4:12,14,24 5:10,16 14:25 18:6 22:7 39:19 40:9 41:10,17 42:23 43:1 106:6 113:18 134:4,7,16 150:11 week 19:25 weeks 11:5,9 109:6 131:3 weigh 130:10,12 weighting 41:13 welcome 2:6 4:12 43:8 64:8 84:18 we'll 2:8 5:21 6:3,5 11:16 12:2 24:11 41:6 43:8,23,25 47:8 52:1 58:18 61:8 64:9 78:8 87:16 101:15,16,24 110:3,25 126:16 131:6 134:18,23 139:12,13 we're 4:7,21 6:2 7:17 8:1 9:10,15 10:12,22 11:4,17 17:13 27:7 39:6,7,9,10,24 40:11 41:1,13,21 42:22 53:5,20 56:17 61:10 72:2 77:13 79:18 84:6 85:12,21 86:6,9,11 89:3 96:16,24 97:10 98:7,8 101:18 102:4,5 107:20 108:15,19 109:8,23 114:8,10,11 115:4 122:21 123:3 128:15,23 130:11 131:1,3 134:19 137:11</p>	<p>139:11 140:17,18 141:15,18 142:21 146:21 148:19 west 56:8 90:25 91:12,23 95:19 108:9 127:13 143:13 western 59:7 93:1 100:21 Wethington 1:14 4:2 11:12 15:24 16:4,6 79:9 96:5 101:20 102:25 103:21 104:2 111:6 116:18,25 118:17 119:3,5,18,23,25 122:16,24 123:8 127:25 132:13 133:23 134:1 144:22 149:3,23 wetland 121:4 122:19 wetlands 120:15 121:25 we've 2:14 8:9,12 9:13,21 20:20 21:12 23:13,23 26:21 29:8,21 31:20 32:16 33:3,8,15 36:13 39:8 44:25 46:8 60:4 67:17 86:4 91:11 92:12 95:18 98:5,9,12 104:25 109:7 111:11 112:19 113:3 128:15 134:24 146:24 150:3 whatever 46:1 66:6 72:14 76:1 83:16,24 84:2 102:15 whenever 124:14</p>	<p>Whereas 110:23 where's 122:2 wherever 78:22 whether 22:9 23:7 38:25 45:24,25 65:24 70:5,6,7 75:25 91:25 92:1,8,9 98:21 102:14 126:12 135:24 138:15 whichever 40:21 42:10 white 3:24 6:14 29:22 87:20 whittled 22:17 whoever 103:24 110:22 whole 11:21 15:5 32:4 54:9 91:1 106:15 125:6 131:10 140:12 142:17 146:9 147:17 who's 87:22 whose 84:18 87:1 124:2 who've 39:16 wide 109:3 widely 117:6 118:3 wider 111:22 widespread 108:5 wildlife 70:20 84:10,14 99:22 100:2 willing 88:18 147:3 window 62:4 wings 105:4 winter 6:11 80:22 wiped 107:23 wish 4:14 65:22</p>	<p>wishing 4:10 witnesses 141:5 women's 2:21 wonder 77:13,19 78:11 129:23 wondering 116:22 118:7 129:21 work 6:11,19,24 8:14 21:9 24:22,25 45:23 55:13,15 59:6 60:22 73:20 82:14 90:22 97:3,6 98:8 99:6 103:9 109:13 110:2 111:22 113:16 114:7,22 116:1,8,9,23 117:5 118:3 126:7 144:2 149:20,25 workable 52:21 worked 7:16 9:7 58:10,15 59:11 60:15 75:15 82:18 112:19 118:16 142:13 working 8:1 14:14 56:25 65:20 75:24 88:19 109:19,25 116:1,3 144:8 146:13 148:12,17 149:2 works 6:23 91:8 117:11 world 54:6 56:24 88:6 89:1 99:8 100:23 world-class 70:11 world's 52:4 86:2 worldwide 48:14 worried 115:12 132:1</p>
--	---	---	---

<p>worries 115:19,22</p> <p>worry 102:10,11</p> <p>worse 63:18 137:23</p> <p>worth 50:2 61:6 75:2</p> <p>wow 114:18 145:9</p> <p>wrap 72:17</p> <p>WRDA 145:22 146:23</p> <p>write 41:11</p> <p>written 3:9 5:13 44:14 46:21 50:16 55:11 64:4 99:9 108:4 126:11 150:12</p> <p>wrong 63:13 133:13 139:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>yacht 106:10,11</p> <p>Yandek 72:25 75:10 76:4 132:21</p> <p>Y-a-n-d-e-k 75:11</p> <p>YANDEK 75:10 132:21 133:25</p> <p>yards 112:22</p> <p>yardstick 25:8</p> <p>year's 10:10</p> <p>yellow 3:4 40:13 41:11,23 43:5,15 100:6 150:13</p> <p>Yep 140:23</p> <p>yet 46:24 110:12 135:7 147:5</p> <p>yield 88:3</p> <p>York 17:3 39:13 117:7 118:8 127:14</p> <p>you'll 6:1 12:17 68:6</p>	<p>young 138:21</p> <p>younger 95:15</p> <p>yours 87:14</p> <p>yourselves 36:13 39:4 47:7</p> <p>you've 49:19,25 59:15 71:3 75:18 81:12 87:10 94:7 133:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/> <p>Zaborowski 1:17 2:2,4 40:5 43:17,21 44:16 46:18,22 47:14,17 49:9,21 50:5,8,15,18 52:24 53:3,15 55:16,23 58:4,20,24 61:4,7 63:19 64:1,18,21,24 65:2 67:10 68:1,22,25 70:22 71:7,13 72:21 73:4,6,9,13 75:7 76:19,23 77:5 79:7,25 80:5 82:16 83:1,5 84:16 85:4,7 86:24 89:12,25 90:3,10,15 92:14 93:7 95:7 99:1,12,15 101:23 104:11 106:12,22 107:25 110:3,6,8,11,17 114:12,19 120:1 122:17 123:11 125:18 126:4 129:11 131:20 132:12,14,20 136:4,9 138:25 139:8 144:12 145:8,13,15,17 147:9 150:2</p> <p>zebra 77:18</p>	<p>105:7,9</p> <p>zero 51:7 60:1</p> <p>ZIP 42:14,17,19 43:25 46:19 47:8,9,12 50:10,14 55:24 56:2,9 59:5 61:13 64:20,21 68:22 71:16 73:13 75:8,11 80:5 85:4 87:12,15,17 90:12 93:8 95:10 99:3,6 104:13,15 106:24 114:18 120:5,9 126:7 129:13 136:9 139:16 145:19</p> <p>zone 29:23,24,25 30:3,5,13</p>	
---	---	---	--