

Thank you for your comment, Barbara Lucas.

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GLMRIS

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Comment Submitted:

I feel greatly for all the people who may lose jobs, and/or whose incomes will be decreased, if a hydrologic separation between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi is restored. But future generations (and this includes the progeny of those people whose jobs or incomes will be impacted) are 100% dependent on it's happening.

My great-great-grandfather was a carriage-maker—a really good one—and his sons were following in his footsteps. When automobiles were invented, the family lost this business which it had put its heart and soul into. Somehow, they adjusted. None of them starved. Never has anyone in the family been bitter that Henry Ford and friends forced this change in fortunes.

Throughout history humans have adapted to changes brought on by weather, new inventions, and other life-altering events, and certainly it hasn't been easy, but where there is a will there is a way. "Necessity is the mother of invention" has long been a driving force in our country. The concept that all jobs and income levels must be maintained—at all costs, even if it is detrimental to the rest of society—is a new thing in our history.

I am sure that in the short term it won't be easy, but eventually all kinds of new jobs and opportunities will come about as a result of a restored barrier. As a society we must embrace rather than fear the challenges. If we don't, invasive species will devastate our precious Great Lakes to the point where there is no going back. If we let that happen, I am certain my grandchildren—when they are old enough to understand what happened—will say to me, "Why? Why did you let it happen?" I will never be able to face them if we are paralyzed into inaction by fears of short-term losses.

The GLMRIS study should be adjusted to focus on preventing the movement of invasive species between the watersheds, not just reducing the risk. And it should be designed to allow quick completion—18 months at most—so as to facilitate effective action as fast as possible.

Respectfully submitted by:

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