



November 6, 2007

Nancy Pelosi, Representative
Office of the Speaker

John Boehner, Representative
Office of the Republican Leader

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Representative Boehner:

As Mayors from cities across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin, we urge you to override the President's veto of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. At a time when the significance of water resources is even more evident than before, it is of paramount importance that our country assures the long term sustainability of this resource that is so important to our quality of life and economic well being.

The recent wildfires in California, drought in the Southwestern and Southeastern parts of our country, and lowering levels on the Great Lakes, are clear signals that we must act now to protect the quality and quantity of our water resources. One element of WRDA that is particularly important and needs urgent attention is funding for the completion and continued operation of the electronic carp barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. This barrier is the lone defense keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, and it must be improved and completed. Should the carp get into the Great Lakes, the potential implications for the ecosystem and the multibillion dollar sport and commercial fishery could be devastating. This would also add to the biological destruction coming from over 180 invasive species in the Great Lakes already.

We again request with the utmost sense of urgency that you act now to preserve our water resources for the future by overriding the President's veto of WRDA.

Sincerely,

Gary Becker, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
Cities Initiative
Mayor, City of Racine

Richard M. Daley, Founding U.S. Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
Cities Initiative
Mayor, City of Chicago

Cc: Rep. James Oberstar, Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Rep. John L. Mica, Ranking Republican, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
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Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair