

**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE ALLIANCE DES VILLES**  
**DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**  
**RESOLUTION 4 – 2019M**

**ADVANCING INTERIM MEASURES AT BRANDON ROAD LOCK AND DAM TO PROTECT AGAINST ASIAN CARP**

**WHEREAS**, the threat of aquatic invasive species, particularly Asian carp, including Silver and Bighead carp, to the biodiversity of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system, the \$5.8 trillion regional economy, and the \$7 billion commercial, recreational and tribal fishery, continues to loom and intensify; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) has taken a consistent position in past resolutions outlining the danger of aquatic invasive species, particularly Asian carp, to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system and regional economy, and called for urgency and action to address the threat; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities Initiative, in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission, completed a report in 2012, Restoring the Natural Divide, demonstrating the feasibility of physical separation and restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, and the Cities Initiative has consistently advocated for full physical separation as the most effective way to halt the spread of Asian carp; and

**WHEREAS**, action to block the potential pathways for aquatic invasive species, especially Asian carp, particularly through the Chicago Area Waterway System, has been too slow and mired in bureaucracy at times, and time is of the essence to try and secure project authorization and appropriation to stay on track with the design and construction timeline which is tied to planned maintenance closures of locks on the Illinois Waterway; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers completed the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study in January 2014, outlining eight alternatives approaches to reducing the risk of AIS moving between the basins, confirming that physical separation is the most effective; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers released the draft Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study – Brandon Road Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement in November 2018, an evaluation of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois, an ideal single control point for AIS in the Chicago Area Waterway System, that identifies the Recommended Plan, a set of measures to monitor and control the movement of aquatic invasive species at Brandon Road including nonstructural measures, acoustic fish deterrent, air bubble curtain, engineered channel, electric barrier, flushing lock and boat launches, as the approach that maximizes the effectiveness of preventing upstream transfer of AIS while minimizing impacts, and anticipates the cost to be approximately \$778 million; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker has indicated support for structural measures at Brandon Road to halt Asian carp, a departure from past administrations; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Cities Initiative welcomes the Recommended Plan as a significant advancement in aquatic invasive species control measures, it remains that full physical separation of the Mississippi River Basin and the Great Lakes Basin is the most effective way to eliminate the risk of aquatic invasive species

transfers in both directions and keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system, and should be the standard by which all alternatives are compared.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative emphasizes the urgency around taking action at Brandon Road to bolster defenses against aquatic invasive species, especially Asian carp, entering the Great Lakes system and calls on all regional partners and stakeholders to work together to take definitive action to address this threat; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative urges national and international support for efforts at Brandon Road as establishment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes system will have repercussions beyond the Great Lakes region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls for federal funding for preconstruction engineering and design work at Brandon Road, \$3.8 million, for fiscal year 2020 so that this project can finally begin; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on the US Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Illinois, and other Great Lakes states as appropriate to work expeditiously to complete a design agreement and commit funding to the project at Brandon Road before October 2019 so that preconstruction design and engineering work can begin; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative urges that preconstruction design and engineering work begin no later than October 2019 be completed no later than October 2022, if not sooner; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on Congress to move forward expeditiously with authorization and appropriation of funding for construction for the Recommended Plan at Brandon Road Lock and Dam; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on the US Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Illinois, and other Great Lakes states as appropriate to consider out of the box approaches to helping advance the project in an expeditious manner, particularly when it comes issues such as real estate land acquisitions and review, best available technology, and others; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative encourages measures to eradicate Grass Carp, based on federal risk assessments be initiated as soon as possible.