



September 2, 2026

Dear Assistant Secretary Telle,

As leaders of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (GLLC), Great Lakes Commission (GLC), and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI), we are writing to express our strong support for resuming construction on the Brandon Road Interbasin Project (BRIP) as soon as possible. We also would like to encourage communication among all project partners to avoid any future disruptions and delays in implementing this essential project.

The GLLC, GLC, and GLSLCI are regional Great Lakes organizations representing state/provincial and local government officials. Our organizations have consistently expressed support for the BRIP and appreciate the work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in moving forward with this project. We also applaud USACE's collaboration with the State of Illinois and the State of Michigan over the years leading up to the construction phase of the BRIP.

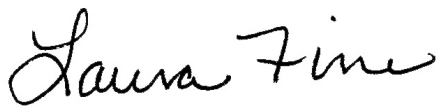
As you know, invasive carp would have devastating effects on the ecology and economy of the Great Lakes, damaging native fish, fishing and recreational boating industries, and enjoyment of the basin's lakes and rivers. The situation is time-sensitive, with invasive carp already present in rivers leading towards the Great Lakes basin.

Preventing their access to the Great Lakes is by far the most effective approach to protecting the region's \$5.1 billion fisheries and \$16 billion recreational boating economies, as the costs of mitigation and eradication of established invasive species would quickly eclipse the total estimated project costs for construction of the BRIP. This project has broad support and will serve as a proving ground for invasive species management nationwide.

We appreciate your leadership and your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter and the vital importance of the Great Lakes to our citizens, businesses, and industries.

If you have any questions about this letter or wish to arrange a discussion, please contact GLLC Director Jess Lienhardt at 630-282-3077 or jlienhardt@csg.org, GLC Director of Policy and Government Affairs Eric Brown at 202-821-6230 or ebrown@glc.org, and/or GLSLCI U.S. Policy Director Erin Keleske at 262-994-7668 or ekeleske@glslcities.org.

Sincerely,



State Senator Laura Fine
Illinois
Chair, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Legislative Caucus



Tim Bruno
Chair, Great Lakes Commission
Pennsylvania



Cavalier Johnson
Mayor of Milwaukee, WI
U.S. Co-Chair, Great Lakes and St.
Lawrence Cities Initiative



State Representative David Abbott
Indiana
Vice Chair, Great Lakes-St.
Lawrence Legislative Caucus



James Jennings
Vice Chair, Great Lakes
Commission
Illinois



Kenneth Johnson
Mayor of Muskegon, MI
Board Secretary, Great Lakes and
St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

cc:

Congressional Great Lakes Task Force Chairs
Governor J.B. Pritzker, Illinois
Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan