

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Trump:

We write to you with deep concern over a forthcoming agency action that will have serious consequences for American workers and the U.S. economy.

The operation of Chicago-area locks on the Illinois River, including the Brandon Road Lock, is critical to the movement of goods on the Chicago Area Waterways System (CAWS). There are over 15,000 shipping industry jobs in Illinois and Indiana alone that rely on the Brandon Road Lock to provide the nation with a safe, secure, and environmentally friendly means of transportation for America's domestic commerce. We therefore write to you today to urge you to postpone the release of the Brandon Road Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP).

On Tuesday, February 28th, 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to release the TSP to address the issue of Asian Carp and other aquatic invasive species. This project will have significant implications for commercial vessel traffic at the Brandon Road Lock.

Many commercial vessel owners and their employees that reside in our districts are greatly concerned that the TSP will include a structural modification to the Brandon Road Lock that would disrupt commercial activity on the CAWS and harm the local, regional and ultimately the national economy. Further, there remains concern that any structural modification to the lock, such as an electric barrier, could create additional safety hazards for towboat crews.

Over the past 5 years, the State of Illinois and its partners have removed 5 million pounds of Asian Carp from the upper Illinois Waterway, resulting in a reduction in population of 68%. **Further, since 1991, the 'Leading Edge' of the Asian Carp population has not moved upriver beyond the Dresden Island Pool, more than 10 miles downriver from the Brandon Road Lock.** This makes it clear that non-structural actions taken thus far have successfully mitigated the risks associated with Asian Carp, and that the Corps therefore should not hastily recommend a structural alternative that could negatively impact the economy and the safety of towboat crews.

We do not believe the Corps of Engineers should release the Brandon Road Lock TSP under acting leadership. We therefore urge you to direct the Corps to delay release until such time as a Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works takes office. With that said, we are committed to working with your Administration to implement practical solutions. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress


Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



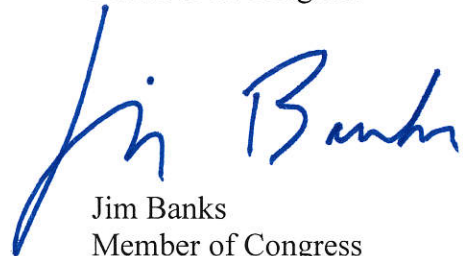
Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



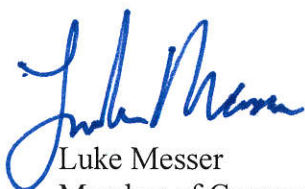
Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress