

Hon. Kathryn McGarry

Minister Natural Resources and Forestry

Whitney Block 6th Flr Rm 6630, 99 Wellesley St W, Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Dear Minister

I am writing to you to bring to your attention a matter that is of great concern to me, my family and our cottage association. It concerns Asian Carp.

The Key River Area Association (www.kraa.ca) represents hundred of families who live and cottage in the North Eastern Georgian Bay. We are very active in the stewardship of the Great Lakes.

Asian Carp present a real threat to the Great Lakes. If they establish themselves they could do irreparable damage to the commercial fisheries, sports fisheries and tourism which, combined, provide hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue to the Great Lakes economy every year.

It has been reported that eggs from Grass Carp have been found in the Sandusky River in Ohio. Scientists are apparently trying to determine if these eggs are associated with the 11 Grass Carp that were found in Lake Erie and adjoining bodies of water this year. If so this could be the start of a devastating contamination of our Great Lakes by these invasive fish. We have been told that the State of Ohio and the Government of the United States are reluctant to take any measures to eradicate the Grass Carp population in the Sandusky River until further studies are complete. We think this is short sighted. We believe that the cost of eradicating a relatively small population of these Carp at this point in time would be prudent and could head off an enormous cost if Grass Carp get a foothold in the Great Lakes as may well be the case if nothing is done at this point in time.

We understand that the Province of Ontario has an agreement with the eight Great Lake States to provide assistance to one another if and when action needs to be taken to prevent an Asian Carp outbreak in the Great Lakes. We think now is one of those times.

We urge you to reach out to your Ohio and US counterparts to encourage them to take action immediately to eradicate the Carp in the Sandusky River and to provide whatever assistance they may require to do so.

Sincerely,

Peter Turkstra, President
Key River Area Association (KRAA)
905-627-9501