



April 24, 2017
President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

The Michigan Travel Commission and the Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan represent a \$38 billion tourism economy in the Great Lakes State. Our most recent data from 2014, shows that Michigan hosted 113 million visitors who supported 214,000 jobs, through recreation, lodging, dining and other travel spending. This economy heavily relies on the recreational and aesthetic opportunities provided by the Great Lakes and Michigan's inland waters.

As advocates of Michigan's tourism industry, we are seriously concerned about the looming threat of bighead and silver carp entering the Great Lakes. With voracious appetites and high reproductive capacity, bighead and silver carp can drastically alter the carefully balanced ecosystem that sustains a \$7 billion fishing industry. Potential injury from flying fish weighing up to 60 pounds can also diminish the \$5 billion boating industry.

With only 47 miles separating these invasive carp from Lake Michigan, and the potential for small fish to be carried by barges through the electric barriers meant to deter fish passage, it is critical that new research and technologies be supported without delay to prevent invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes.

Michigan understands the potential impact invasive carp can have on our economy. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is engaged in research, monitoring, education and outreach to help prevent the spread of these invaders. The state of Michigan has invested \$1 million to launch the Invasive Carp Challenge, a global search for innovative solutions to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes.

Our state is committed to solutions, but we recognize that no one state can act alone to deter the threat.

We respectfully request your leadership and action to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to work with other federal agencies, state and local governments and to release the Brandon Road study as a first step toward a viable, long-term solution for keeping invasive carp out of the Great Lakes.

An illustration of the damaging behavior of invasive silver carp can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLmJjRqXDCo>.

We the undersigned are available to discuss this important issue at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christian Overland".

Christian Overland
Chair, Michigan Travel Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larisa Draves".

Larisa Draves, Executive Director
Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan
TICOM, PO Box 304, Stanwood, MI 49346