



March 24, 2026

Representative Samantha Vang  
Co-Chair, Legacy Committee  
MN House of Representatives

Representative Joe McDonald  
Co-Chair, Legacy Committee  
MN House of Representatives

**Re: Support for Lock and Dam 5 Invasive Carp Deterrent Project**

Dear Co-Chairs Vang and McDonald and Members of the Committee:

As co-chairs of the Stop Carp Coalition, we wish to share our ongoing support for the Lock and Dam 5 invasive carp deterrent project funded by the Legislature through the Outdoor Heritage Fund in 2024. **We ask the committee to support the DNR's requested extension for the interim design deadline while holding firm to the Legislature's final installation deadline of June 30, 2029.**

We are disappointed that the DNR cannot meet the design deadline as ordered in the 2024 legislation. However, the DNR assures us that the project is still on track for timely installation. That is what is most important.

Invasive carp present an urgent threat to the Mississippi River and connected waterways within Minnesota, including two national parks – the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. As these fish damage river recreation, riverfront communities, and aquatic ecosystems, the cost to manage them will only increase. Illinois spends \$10 million each year on invasive carp removal alone.

Preventative deterrent systems are much more cost-effective and ensure much better outcomes for every Minnesotan who loves boating, fishing, paddling, and other river recreation.

The proposed Lock and Dam 5 deterrent will bring cutting-edge technologies to Minnesota. Invasive carp prevention requires applying several tactics together to collectively achieve a high blockage rate. The deterrent plays a vital part, along with tracking and netting fish,

fortifying other parts of the dam structure, and developing new technologies for future implementation.

Research shows that we need to stack these tactics together to achieve a very low overall Lock and Dam 5 bypass rate. Every piece of the system is important, even though none are fully effective on their own. The few carp that still do manage to bypass the deterrent and move upstream of the dam will not reach high enough populations for successful reproduction.

Right now, there is no evidence that invasive carp are reproducing in Minnesota's waters. We can't predict with certainty when that will change. However, evidence suggests that the Lock and Dam 5 deterrent stands a high chance of being very effective if installed by 2029. Further delays would present an unnecessary risk.

We ask for your help in holding the DNR accountable to complete the Lock and Dam 5 carp deterrent with the urgency this issue deserves. We look forward to working with the Legislature and DNR to identify funding for ongoing operations, maintenance, and related dam improvements in the years ahead.

Thank you.

For the river,



Christine Goepfert  
Midwest Campaign Director  
National Parks Conservation Association



Colleen O'Connor Toberman  
Program Director  
Friends of the Mississippi River