

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C.

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

As you consider legislation to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act, our members would urge you to include language to provide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with the necessary tools to study and address the spread of Asian carp. This invasive species has moved aggressively into the Tennessee and Cumberland River basins causing major damage to our native fisheries and rural economies.

The Mississippi River and its tributaries form an ecosystem that is highly valued. Estimates put the economic output of recreational fishing in the area at roughly \$19 billion. Fishery professionals across Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Mississippi agree on the need to develop a control strategy for Asian carp in the Tennessee and Cumberland River basins including the possible installation of barriers to prevent movement of Asian carp as well as coordination of financial incentives for commercial fisherman to remove carp that are infesting waters in impacted reservoirs. Any initiative to control the spread of this species will require close collaboration between USACE and local stakeholders.

USACE has previously played a leading role in the fight against the spread of Asian carp in the Great Lakes regions, and as this species continues to develop in waterways across the southeastern United States, additional resources and activities are necessary.

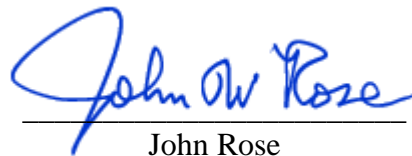
Although we continue to operate in a challenging budget environment, our members hope you will include the necessary support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue and expand its Asian carp control activities, while also fulfilling its civil works infrastructure obligations.

Thank you for your consideration.

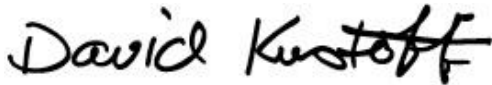
Sincerely,



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



Phil Roe
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress