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13TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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July 11, 2017

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for contacting me regarding your thoughts on the Trump Administration's decision in February to delay release of the Brandon Road Study relating to Asian Carp. It is important that I hear from constituents in my district and I appreciate the time you took to share your thoughts.

As you may know, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began conducting a study in April 2015 to explore the potential need for structural upgrades in the Chicago area to further address the issue of aquatic invasive species. The findings of this study, when released, could have significant and lasting implications for commercial vessel traffic at the Brandon Road Lock. This lock is critical to the movement of goods on the Chicago Area Waterways System (CAWS), so any potential structural modification must be thoroughly reviewed and cautiously implemented in order to ensure the safety of commercial vessel crews.

With this in mind, I wrote a letter to President Trump on February 23, along with 15 other interested members of Congress, asking the Administration to delay the release of the plan until a new Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works is appointed. We explained in the letter that the State of Illinois and its partners have taken great measures to ensure that the Asian Carp population is under reasonable control. This is evidenced by the fact that the "leading edge" of the Asian Carp population has not moved upriver beyond the Dredgen Island Pool, more than 10 miles downriver from the Brandon Road Lock, in more than 25 years. Much of this success is due to Federal funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, funding that I support maintaining. It is therefore clear that nonstructural actions have been successful at mitigating the risks associated with Asian Carp thus far.

I understand you are interested in seeing the Brandon Road Study released. I appreciate you letting me know your thoughts and I hope that we can work together on other issues in the future to improve our system of government. Please know that I share your goal of preventing further harmful increases of the Asian Carp population. Again, thank you for contacting me regarding the Brandon Road Study.

Please let me know if my office can be of assistance to you in the future. If you would like to stay informed on what is happening in the 13th District, I encourage you to sign up to receive my e newsletter by visiting <https://rodneydavis.house.gov/contact/newsletter>. It is truly an honor to serve you in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress