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Obama Administration Makes Asian Carp A Priority

Michigan LCV pleased with short-term action, wants long-term solution

ANN ARBOR --- Michigan League of Conservation Voters welcomes the Obama Administration's new \$50-million plan to stop Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes, but says a long-term solution to keeping the invasive species from decimating our region's environment and economy is still at bay. The plan calls for an array of methods to strengthen defenses, but does not enforce full separation of waterways.

"Invasive species pose a serious threat to the Great Lakes Region's economy, which is the fourth largest in the world," said Patty Birkholz, West Michigan Director for Michigan LCV. "This plan includes many preventative measures to address Asian Carp looming in neighboring waterways, but if we want a barrier that holds, we must completely separate the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River Basin," Birkholz said.

The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to report back by the end of the year about whether complete hydrologic separation is necessary. Leading experts and Michigan legislators, such as U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R - Midland) and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D - MI), have publicly weighed in that the only way to ensure our fisheries and freshwater are protected is by shutting out Asian Carp entirely.

"There is no guarantee that Asian Carp are agreeable to our timeline," Birkholz said. "It is critical for Michigan's fisheries and freshwater that we do not lose this momentum. We must move toward complete separation of waterways as quickly as possible."

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Michigan League of Conservation Voters is Michigan's non-partisan political voice for land, air and water. Visit our website: <http://www.michiganlcv.org>.