



Memorandum

To: Members of Council
From: Mayor Steele
Date: March 26, 2024
Re: Preventing Invasive Copi in Great Lakes

The invasion of Copi, known formerly as Asian carp, into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem poses a significant threat to our economy and our environment.

These invasive species have the potential to cause irreparable damage to ecosystems, disrupt native species populations, and devastate the multi-billion-dollar commercial and sport fishing industries which support countless livelihoods in Canada and the United States. We must advocate for the protection of our environment and the economic vitality of our region.

Thus, I am requesting that Council approve the following motion:

*That Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne support the attached letter; and
That the City of Port Colborne forward this letter to the Governor of Illinois*

Thank you for your consideration,

Mayor William C. Steele



PORT COLBORNE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne ON L3K 3C8 • www.portcolborne.ca
T 905-835-2900 ext. 301 F 905-835-2969

March 21, 2024

JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield IL 62706

Dear Governor,

It was a pleasure to meet you and hear you speak last summer in Chicago at the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative conference led by our host Billy McKinney, Mayor of Zion.

I write to you on behalf of the citizens of Port Colborne, Ontario, about an important matter for our community and the broader Great Lakes-St Lawrence region. As Mayor of Port Colborne, it is my duty to advocate for the protection of our environment and the economic vitality of our region. Thus, I urge your immediate attention to constructing the Brandon Road barrier to stop invasive carp in Illinois from entering the Great Lakes-St Lawrence watershed.

The invasion of Copi, known formerly as Asian carp, into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem poses a significant threat to our economy and our environment. These invasive species have the potential to cause irreparable damage to ecosystems, disrupt native species populations, and devastate the multi-billion-dollar commercial and sport fishing industries which support countless livelihoods in Canada and the United States.

We must take swift and decisive action to prevent the further spread of Copi into the Great Lakes. The construction of the Brandon Road barrier represents a crucial step in this effort, and its timely completion is essential to safeguarding our shared natural resources and economic interests.

As leaders of our respective communities, we must work collaboratively to address this pressing issue. So, I am just contacting you to ask how local governments in Canada and the United States can assist Illinois and the eight states bordering the Great Lakes and the US Federal Government in expediting the construction of the Brandon Road barrier.

Whether through resource allocation, political support, or other assistance means, I stand ready to mobilize the necessary resources and support from our community to aid in this endeavour. Together, we can take proactive measures to protect our environment, preserve our fisheries, and ensure the prosperity and well-being of our citizens for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Mayor William Steele