

The economic damage alone will be over \$1.1 billion-dollars annually to this region. This is not speculation, it is fact. We will no longer be able to live our grandchildren on lakes, or ski, or jet-ski, or even use a boat without great risk, for the fish have broken jaws, fractured shells, and hunched children and adults out of lakes.

There exists only one option to prevent the devastation. Maita Bay and Port Lockies Lakes must be closed immediately, just as they closed the St. Anthony's Lock in Minnesota to stop the carp. Then we can look to fund construction of an electric barrier if you choose to reopen the locks. If the locks are not closed within a few months, the silver carp will pass through the Maita Bay Lock and continue up the TN River, destroying Maita Bay, Milton Mill, Port Lockies, and Mellies Lakes, with over 1,000 miles of beautiful shoreline. The fish are presently in Chertabage Lake and will soon reach the Maita Bay Lock.

Any financial burden on the river transportation industry is few million dollars-pales in comparison to the \$1.1 billion annual loss to this region, let alone the loss of recreation and small businesses. This financial and ecological devastation will be permanent and only grow worse as time goes by, as is presently happening in Italy Lakes.

I am asking you to speak up in defense of our beautiful lakes, the economy, environment, recreation, property values, and businesses in the lakes, and request Governor Lee to work with TRS, the Corps of Engineers, and the Federal government to immediately close the locks. This action will leave behind the greatest legacy imaginable, "Having the entire upper TN River Basin free from environmental and economic devastation."

Fine is the friend of the Asian carp and the enemy of our lakes. They can lay 500,000 to 5,000,000 eggs twice each year making it virtually impossible to control once they get into a lake. Time for talk, planning, and money is over. More time spent discussing this issue will only allow the Asian carp entry into our lakes. I ask you to not let that happen and shut the door to the Asian carp. Please don't allow what has taken place at so many other lakes and rivers to take place here when it can so easily be prevented, merely by closing the locks immediately.

This simply is the only option we have to save our lakes. Our four windermat lakes are irreplaceable and represent the major economic engine of this region. Please take the only action that will prevent them from being destroyed and help to close