

destruction of the lake beds in the upstream and middle reach-lake beds in the upper 70 three basin if they are not stopped.

The economic damage alone will be over \$1.3 billion-dollars annually to this region. This is not speculation, it is factoid. We will no longer be able to buy our grandchildren on lakes, or fish, or jet-ski, or even use a boat without great risk, for the fish have broken jaws, fractured skulls, and mangled children and adults out of boats.

There exists only one option to prevent the devastation. Motts Bar and Port Louisa locks 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 alternate barge if you choose to reopen the locks. If the locks are not closed within a few months, the silver carp will pass through the Motts Bar lock and continue up the 70 River, destroying Motts Bar, Nelson Mill, Port Louisa, and William Lakes, with over 1,000 miles of beautiful shoreline. The fish are presently in Chippewa Lake and will soon reach the Motts Bar lock.

Any financial burden on the river transportation industry is few million dollars: pails in comparison to the \$1.3 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 many 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 WRA, the Corps of Engineers, and the Federal government to immediately close the locks. This action will leave behind the greatest legacy imaginable, "during the entire upper 70 River Basin from environmental and economic devastation."

Time is the friend of the Asian carp and the enemy of our lakes. They can lay 500,000 to 1,000,000 eggs twice each year making it virtually impossible to control even they get into a lake. Time for talk, planning, and concern is over. Now 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 western 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 Motts Bar and Port Louisa locks.