

Dear

As you may already know, the sport fishing, recreation, economy, and property values at 'The Land Between the Lakes' (Kentucky and Barkley Lakes) have been decimated by the invasive Asian carp. State Senator Bill Powers, and U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell both confirm this. The exact same economic and ecological devastation will take place in the remaining four Asian carp-free lakes here in the Upper TN River 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 factual. We will no longer be able to tow our grandchildren on tubes, or ski, or jet-ski, or even use a boat without grave risk, for the fish have broken jaws, fractured skulls, and knocked children and adults out of boats.

There exists only one option to prevent the devastation. Watts Bar and Fort Loudon 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 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 Watts Bar Lock and continue up the TN River, destroying Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Fort Loudon, and Tellico Lakes, with over 1,600 miles of beautiful shoreline. The fish are presently in Chickamauga Lake and will soon reach the Watts Bar Lock.

Any financial burden on the river transportation industry (a few million dollars) pales 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 on the lakes, and request Governor Lee to work with TVA, the Corps of Engineers, and the Federal government to immediately close the locks. This action will leave behind the greatest legacy imaginable, "Saving the entire Upper TN 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 5,000,000 eggs twice each year making it virtually impossible to control once they get into a lake. Time for talk, planning, and concern 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 wondrous 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 Watts Bar and Fort Loudon Locks.

Sincerely,