

LENAWEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

301 N. Main St. Courthouse ~ Adrian, MI 49221

(517) 264-4508

www.lenawee.mi.us

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RES#2010-022



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RESOLUTION

ASIAN CARP ~ GREAT LAKES PROTECTION

WHEREAS, Michigan is home to one of the world's largest freshwater coastlines in the world that supports a thriving tourism trade, fishing industry, and provides the State a unique competitive advantage in attracting jobs and investment; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes provide 20% of the World's freshwater and recent studies have tied more than 800,000 jobs to the Great Lakes and estimated the Great Lakes fishery economy at \$7 billion (<http://www.greatlakes.org/>); and

WHEREAS, a lack of action and understanding regarding the fragile nature of the Great Lakes eco-system has allowed numerous invasive species to enter the Great Lakes with harmful impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Asian carp has proven to be highly detrimental to the safety of people and the health of eco-systems in the United States where the fish are now established; and

WHEREAS, the Asian carp can grow up to six feet and one hundred pounds, some are easily frightened by boats and personal watercraft, which causes them to leap as high as eight feet into the air injuring boaters by collisions with the fish; and

WHEREAS, the Asian carp is considered to be voracious plankton feeder, eating up to 40% of its body weight per day, that could breed quickly, and dominate food supplies within the Great Lakes harming precious gaming fish; and

WHEREAS, two species of Asian carp have now spread through the Mississippi River basin into the Chicago Waterway System that connects to the Great Lakes and have been detected at the edge of Lake Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox and numerous elected officials have sought comprehensive action to close connections in the Chicago Waterway system to Lake Michigan in order to create a permanent separation between the waterways that have already been invaded by the Asian carp and the Great Lakes, an action that is supported by the states of Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York and Pennsylvania and the Canadian Province of Ontario; and


WHEREAS, further inaction could have extreme and detrimental consequences on the ecology of the Great Lakes should the Asian carp enter the lakes system and begin to breed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners, urges Congress and the President of the United States to take all necessary precautions to protect the Great Lakes from the Asian carp and the eventual economic and ecological disaster; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Barack Obama, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Carl Levin, U.S. Congressman Mark Schauer, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Senator Cameron Brown, Representative Dudley Spade, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, and all Michigan Counties.

PASSED by roll call vote of the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held on July 14, 2010 in the Old County Courthouse, Adrian, Michigan.


James E. Van Doren, Chair


Roxann Holloway, County Clerk