

# **Durbin joins legislation demanding Trump Administration release report on Asian carp**

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) joined U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Gary Peters (D-MI) to introduce the *Stop Asian Carp Now Act*, which will require the Trump Administration to release the Brandon Road Study within seven days of the bill's enactment. The Brandon Road Lock and Dam study will provide important guidance on how best to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes and is an important hurdle before further action can be taken.

**“With last week’s discovery of an adult Silver Carp a mere nine miles from Lake Michigan, it is imperative that the Trump Administration release the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ draft proposal to prevent Asian carp from reaching and severely harming the Great Lakes,” said Durbin. “I remain concerned by what I understand to be a White House decision to delay and potentially modify this report that has been under development for years. Now more than ever, we should be redoubling our efforts to prevent the spread of Asian carp by ensuring strong federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – which President Trump’s budget eliminates – and by pushing for the release of the Brandon Road Study, which this legislation intends to do.”**

Senator Durbin has long advocated for a comprehensive approach to protect the Great Lakes from the threat of Asian Carp. In January, Durbin and eleven other bipartisan senators from the Great Lakes region wrote to Assistant Secretary of the Army Jo-Ellen Darcy asking the Army Corps to complete the Brandon Road Study, which will offer recommendations to keep invasive Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. The study was set to be released on February 28, 2017, but was delayed by the Trump Administration. In April, Durbin and some of his colleagues [wrote](#) to President Trump and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Mick Mulvaney requesting the Administration release the Army Corps draft proposal to prevent Asian carp from reaching and severely harming the Great Lakes after the White House decided to delay and potentially modify this report. Durbin has yet to receive a response to this letter.

In 2010, Durbin [called](#) for the appointment of a director for the effort to control the spread of Asian Carp, which resulted in John Goss being named Chairman of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee by then-President Obama. In 2015, Durbin, alongside Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), requested a [study](#) examining several options for containing aquatic invasive species, including Asian Carp, in the Great Lakes.

Durbin has [led efforts](#) in the Senate Appropriation Committee to secure federal funding to combat the spread of Asian Carp. He has helped secure nearly \$2 billion in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a cross-agency action program intended to protect the Great Lakes from threats, including invasive species like the Asian carp, and clean up toxic areas of concern. President Trump’s fiscal year 2018 budget calls for the elimination of the GLRI, hurting efforts to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.