



MINNESOTA SENATE  
Committee on Environment, Climate and Legacy  
SF 2037 TESTIMONY  
March 23, 2023

Chair Hawj and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I'm Christine Goepfert, Midwest Campaign Director for the National Parks Conservation Association.

NPCA has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System for more than 100 years. We have more than 1.6 million members and supporters, including over 27,000 in Minnesota, who care deeply about our national parks.

I am also Chair of the Stop Carp Coalition, which was established in 2012. The Coalition submitted a Letter of Support for SF 2037 urging full funding for the multi-pronged solution to combat the threat of invasive carp in our state. The Coalition represents a diverse group of organizations, including the recreation and fishing industries, marinas, private property owners, conservation and environmental groups.

Soon after formation, our Coalition successfully led Congressional action to close the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock to boat traffic. In 2015, when the lock was closed, this was the only option available to stop the upstream migration of invasive carp. But we knew, even then, that action alone was not enough. We knew that we needed to identify ways to protect our waters downstream in the rest of the state, which includes two of Minnesota's national parks – the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

Since the lock closed, the carp invasion front has been moving northward through Iowa toward Minnesota. And today we finally have a solution for the rest of our state – an invasive carp deterrent system at Lock and Dam 5 near Winona. We have no time to waste because we don't know when that invasion front will arrive. Let's not wait to find out. We have an opportunity to protect our fisheries, recreational boating economy and the health of our waters. We urge you to support SF 2037 and fully fund a solution that will ensure Minnesotans can continue to enjoy their lakes, rivers and national parks for decades to come. Thank you.