



# CONSERVATION MINNESOTA

March 22, 2023

Chair Hawj and Members of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee,

**We write to ask for your support for S.F. 2037 (Hoffman), providing funding to protect the Upper Mississippi River from the spread of invasive carp.** Conservation Minnesota is dedicated to protecting the people and places that make our state unique and beautiful. Ensuring that the Mississippi River remains safe and accessible to all who call Minnesota home while protecting it from ecological collapse is central to this mission.

The threat from invasive carp (silver, bighead, grass, and black carp) to human safety and our natural river environment has been growing each year. Silver carp, who infamously jump out of the water en masse when disturbed by the sound of a motor, are a threat to safe recreation on the Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota Rivers. The bighead carp, with its massive appetite, can tip our natural river ecosystems off balance and threaten native species of fish and mussels. Together, these invasive carp can cause costly damage and threaten the livelihood of those who depend on outdoor recreation, tourism, and healthy rivers.

Each year that we do not act, the threat of invasive carp in Minnesota's rivers grow. We have an opportunity to stop the spread at Lock and Dam 5. This bill implements an effective deterrent based on findings from research done by the University of Minnesota, College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences. These recommendations include:

- Installing a deterrent system
- Adjusting lock gates to improve deterrent efficacy
- Expanding fish surveys, tracking and removal programs
- Ecosystem resiliency efforts for native fish
- Continued research at the University of Minnesota

Thank you for your consideration and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Avery Hildebrand**, Public Land & Outdoor Recreation Program Manager

**Nels Paulsen**, Policy Director

**David Pelikan**, Policy Associate

+1 (608) 469-5299

+1 (262) 685-7265

[avery@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:avery@conservationminnesota.org)

[nels@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:nels@conservationminnesota.org)

[david@conservationminnesota.org](mailto:david@conservationminnesota.org)