



March 21, 2023

Committee on Environment, Climate and Legacy
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 1150
95 University Avenue West
St Paul, MN 55103

Re: Senate File 2037, Appropriation to Address Invasive Carp

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SF 2037 on behalf of the Wild Rivers Conservancy and our members. This bill will address the threat of invasive carp in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, the nation's first wild and scenic river national park, and other waters of Minnesota.

For decades invasive carp (silver, bighead, black and grass carp) have been working their way up the Mississippi River toward Minnesota & Wisconsin. Several have been caught in the St. Croix Lower Riverway so far, but they are not reproducing here yet. We have a small window of time to prevent a total takeover of our waterways if we act now.

Invasive carp outcompete native fish for food and space, leading to a decline in ecosystem diversity and water quality in rivers where they are established. Silver carp can even injure boaters when they jump out of the water, decimating recreation and tourism.

We support this bill to fund these strategies:

- Installation of a deterrent system at Lock and Dam 5 to block upstream movement;
- Adjustments to lock gates to improve deterrent efficacy;
- Expansion of fish surveys, tracking and removal programs;
- Ecosystem resiliency efforts for native fish; and
- Continued research.

Please support the full appropriation for SF 2037.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Ryun". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Ryun
Executive Director

Wild Rivers Conservancy's mission is to inspire stewardship to forever ensure the rare ecological integrity of the St. Croix & Namekagon Riverway. As the official Friends Group, we support and complement the National Park Service's work within the Riverway. The Conservancy is the voice of the river and the only organization with a watershed-wide scope in the St. Croix River basin.