

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 12, 2022

The Honorable Bobby Rush  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Rush and Ranking Member Upton:

Thank you for holding this important hearing today to discuss issues on hydropower licensing. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter for the record in support of H.R. 3399.

As the primary sponsors of H.R. 3399, we are in strong support of this bipartisan bill requiring the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), which oversees the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), to consider the threat of invasive species when it makes decisions on hydropower licensing. In the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, this bill was filed as an amendment to H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, where it passed by a vote of 229-189. In the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, this bill was filed as an amendment to H.R. 3043, the Hydropower Modernization Act, where it passed the House floor by a voice vote. While these bills ultimately did not become law, the amendments have set an important precedent for the House to prevent the spread of the invasive species.

As background, an Alliant Energy subsidiary, Wisconsin Power and Light, owns and operates a dam located in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin on the Wisconsin River. The Prairie du Sac dam (PDS), now over 100 years old, is responsible for the formation of Lake Wisconsin, which serves as an enormous recreational and wildlife resource for our state.

Nearly 20 years ago, the FWS sought to impose a fishway requirement on the license for the dam, essentially calling for a "fishway" to be installed to allow for the upstream migration of native fish. Since that time, however, scientists and state officials have discovered the existence of an invasive fish species, Asian carp, at the base of the dam. If a fishway were now installed, it is clear these invasive carp would be able to migrate – and thereby endanger native fish populations upstream, including Lake Wisconsin.

H.R. 3399 would ensure that, in this particular case, FWS would be required to consider the threats posed by invasive species before imposing a fishway condition on a hydroelectric license. We strongly believe that such decisions should be predicated on the most up to date information available, and H.R. 3399 will help guarantee that invasive species are not permitted to threaten the Lake Wisconsin watershed, and beyond.

To underscore the regional importance of PDS as a permanent barrier to Asian carp in the Great Lakes region, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Report in 2014. In this report, USACE positively attributed the PDS as a permanent barrier to upstream movement of Asian carp. Additionally, the report identified two pathways that Asian carp could enter the Great Lakes if they were permitted to venture above the dam. Congress has been diligently investing hundreds of millions of dollars to prevent the spread of invasive carp in the Great Lakes through programs like the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project, the FWS Asian Carp Program, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, among many others. It would be foolish to discard all the positive work these projects have achieved by ignoring a simple regulatory fix to hydropower licensing requirements.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments today. We believe we in Congress all share the common goal of restricting the spread of invasive species through the Great Lakes and other bodies of water. We continue to look forward to working with this committee to advance H.R. 3399 this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glenn Grothman".

Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Pocan".

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress