



# Research Backup For “Big”

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## SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN HAS BEEN A LEADER ON KEEPING ASIAN CARP OUT OF THE GREAT LAKES

**Baldwin Supported Aggressive Measures to Keep Asian Carp Out of the Great Lakes.** On December 18, 2009 Baldwin signed a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Darcy, EPA Administrator Jackson, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Allen, and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Hamilton urging them to increase efforts to prevent Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes. The letter said, “Finally, we encourage you to carefully consider your Fiscal Year 2011 budget needs for the barrier project and Asian carp efforts. Over the life of the barrier project, Congress has had to provide new authority and new funding on multiple occasions, and a comprehensive, planned approach would be more effective. There may be no greater threat to the ecosystem of the Great Lakes than the introduction of the Asian carp, and we must do all that we can to prevent this from happening. We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your response.” [[Letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Darcy, EPA Administrator Jackson, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Allen, and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Hamilton, 12/18/2009](#)]

**Baldwin Pressured President Obama To Prevent Asian Carp from Entering the Great Lakes.** On June 29, 2010 Baldwin signed a letter to President Obama urging him to take aggressive action against the spread of Asian carp. The letter said, “In addition to increasing efforts to find and remove existing carp, we urge you to speed up efforts to immediately strengthen the barrier and implement all other measures necessary to stop the carp from migrating into the Great Lakes, including pursuing an aggressive strategy for permanent hydrologic separation.” [[Tammy Baldwin Press Release, 6/29/2010](#)]

**Baldwin Co-Sponsored Bi-Partisan Legislation Aimed At Keeping The Asian Carp Out Of The Great Lakes.** In December of 2014, Baldwin joined Senators Stabenow, Levin, and Brown in co-sponsoring S.3002, the Guarding Our Great Lakes Act. An identical bill was simultaneously introduced in the House, led by Republican Representative Dave Camp and a bipartisan group of Great Lakes representatives. The bill would direct the Chief of the Army Corps Engineers to construct measures to prevent upstream movements of aquatic invasive species through the Brandon Road lock and dam on the Illinois River. [[113<sup>th</sup> Congress S.3002](#); [113<sup>th</sup> Congress H.R. 5861](#)]

**Baldwin Fought For And Won Bi-Partisan Reauthorization Of The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.** In February of 2015, Baldwin introduced S.504, the Great Lakes Ecological and Economic Protection Act of 2015. This bill would reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act, the Great Lakes National Program Office of the EPA, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Baldwin later applauded when the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative reauthorization was added to a Republican bill sponsored by Mark Kirk, and in December of 2016, Baldwin voted for final reauthorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as part the bi-partisan Water Infrastructure and Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. That bill passed on a vote of 78 to 21 in the Senate and was signed into law by the President on December 16, 2016. [[114<sup>th</sup> Congress, S.504](#); [Tammy Baldwin Press Release, 1/20/2016](#); [Senate Vote #163, 12/10/2016](#)]



**Baldwin-Supported Legislation Reauthorized The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative At \$300 Million A Year Through 2021.** After fighting for reauthorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) with her own legislation, Baldwin supported a bi-partisan water infrastructure bill that included the GLRI. According to Michigan Live: “The WIIN bill authorizes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) at \$300 million a year through 2021, dedicates Great Lakes port maintenance funding and strengthens programs for restoring and protecting fish and wildlife.” [[Senate Vote #163, 12/10/2016](#); [Michigan Live, 12/13/2016](#)]

**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Includes Funding For Invasive Species Management.** In explaining funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Michigan Live reported: “The \$300 million in funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which houses annual spending for Great Lakes toxic sediment removal and invasive species management through the Environmental Protection Agency, was included despite efforts from President Donald Trump's administration to cut funding for the program entirely.” [[Michigan Live, 9/14/2017](#)]

**April 2017: Baldwin Urged The Trump Administration To Move Forward On Project To Stop Asian Carp At The Brandon Road Lock And Dam.** In April of 2017, Baldwin and 11 other Great Lakes Senators sent a letter to President Trump regarding a plan to prevent Asian carp from getting beyond the Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Chicago waterway system. “We request the Administration release the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ draft proposal to prevent Asian carp from reaching and severely harming the Great Lakes,” wrote the lawmakers. “We are concerned by what we understand to be a White House decision to delay and potentially modify this report that has been under development for years. When taken together with the proposal to eliminate all funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the fiscal year 2018 budget, delaying the release of this plan to address Asian carp only raises further questions about the Administration’s commitment to protecting our Great Lakes.” [[Letter To President Trump, 4/10/2017](#)]

**June 2017: Baldwin Introduced Legislation To Require The Army Corps Of Engineers To Release A Plan To Stop Asian Carp At The Brandon Road Lock And Dam.** In June of 2017, Baldwin introduced S.1398, the Stop the Asian Carp Now Act of 2017, which would direct the Army Corps of Engineers to publish a study on plans to contain Asian carp at the Brandon Road lock on the Des Plaines River outside of Chicago, a crucial choke-point in preventing the invasive species from reaching Lake Michigan. [[115<sup>th</sup> Congress S.1398](#)]

**August 2017: The Army Corps Of Engineers Issued Recommendations For Stopping Asian Carp At The Brandon Road Lock And Dam.** In August of 2017, CBS News reported: “The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is recommending a mixture of technologies including loud noises and water jets at a crucial site in Illinois to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. The corps released a draft report Monday analyzing options for upgrading the Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet. The complex is on the Des Plaines River a few miles downstream from electric barriers intended to prevent fish in the Mississippi River watershed from reaching Lake Michigan through Chicago-area waterways.” [[CBS News, 8/7/2017](#)]

## **SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN WORKED ACROSS THE AISLE TO SECURE FUNDS TO CLEAN UP THE GREAT LAKES**

**Baldwin Named A “Lake Michigan Champion Of Conservation” For Her Efforts To Protect The Great Lakes.** “U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin, is one of five recipients of Lake Michigan Champions of Conservation awards that will be distributed at a Lake Michigan Day event Aug. 11 at



Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Lake Michigan Stakeholders, which sponsors the awards, said the effort seeks to recognize individuals and businesses for projects and programs that protect and enhance the lands and waters impacting Lake Michigan. LMS said in a press release that Baldwin is receiving the honorary champion award as policy maker for her ‘extensive and ongoing efforts to protect the Great Lakes along with many public policies and funding vital to the entire region.’” [[USA Today, 7/18/2017](#)]

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**Baldwin Joined Bi-Partisan Group Of Senators Calling On EPA Administrator Pruitt To Protect Funding For The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.** In March of 2017, the Daily Cardinal reported: “A slew of U.S. senators sent a bipartisan letter to the Environmental Protection Agency Friday urging the agency not to cut funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. President Donald Trump’s budget plan proposes a 97 percent budget cut from the program. The letter, addressed to newly appointed EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, expressed concern about the potential cut to the program’s nearly \$300 million budget. The senators wrote that they ‘were pleased by the clear support [Pruitt] expressed for the program,’ and that they ‘hope [Pruitt] will continue to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by fully funding this program in the upcoming budget request.’ Among those who penned the letter, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., was the only Wisconsin politician to sign.” [[The Daily Cardinal, 3/15/2017](#)]

## SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN HAS A LONG RECORD OF STANDING UP FOR THE GREAT LAKES

**Baldwin Passed Legislation To Accelerate New And Innovative Water Technologies.** In March of 2016, Senator Tammy Baldwin introduced S.2673, the Water Technology Acceleration Act of 2016. This bill would accelerate the testing, deployment, and commercialization of innovative water technologies, helping municipal water systems improve water quality and reduce water treatment costs for local ratepayers. The bill was later incorporated into the bipartisan Water Infrastructure and Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which was signed into law in December of 2016. [[114<sup>th</sup> Congress S.2673](#); [114<sup>th</sup> Congress S.612](#)]



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

**Baldwin Opposed Increased Industrial Waste Dispersed in Lake Michigan** In 2007, Baldwin voted for a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it disapproves of Indiana issuing a permit to allow British Petroleum (BP) to increase levels of industrial waste expelled into Lake Michigan. The resolution passed 387-26 [[House Vote #719, 7/25/2007](#); Congressional Quarterly, 7/25/07]

**Baldwin Opposed Allowing BP to Pollute the Great Lakes.** On July 19, 2007 Baldwin signed a letter to EPA Administrator Johnson urging him to reverse his decision to allow a BP plant to increase the amount of pollution it dumps into the Great Lakes. The letter said, “As both Congress and the Administration work to protect and restore the Great Lakes, it is unacceptable to allow an increase in harmful discharge of this magnitude. We urge you to immediately review this permit and look forward to your response.” [[Letter to EPA Administrator Johnson, 7/19/2007](#)]