

EXAMPLE LETTER (Change/Alter as you wish)

Dear _____:

The invasive silver carp have destroyed the ecology, recreation, and economies of the Mississippi and Ohio River Watersheds. They are in Wheeler Reservoir and are heading upstream to TN. Addressing the devastation of *Kentucky Lake* and *Barkley Lake*, (*The Land Between the Lakes*) Allan Brown, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Assistant Regional Director said: “The silver-carp population has ballooned to unmanageable numbers. Here in Kentucky, sport fishing is **gone**. The groups that historically flocked to the lakes for vacation have dwindled.” We **will** be saying the same about Guntersville, Nickajack, Chickamauga, Watts Bar, Melton Hill, and Ft. Loudon lakes if these invasive fish aren’t stopped. One silver carp can lay 2-5 million eggs in a summer, thus quickly destroy a lake’s ecosystem. These jumping fish not only destroy the economy, fishery and ecology, they have broken jaws and fractured skulls—jumping fish have killed. Further migration must be prevented.

The only sure way to stop them is with electric barriers at Chickamauga and Nickajack, immediately, and then Watts Bar lock, for about \$10-Million each. This cost is nothing compared to what will be lost. A TVA study by the University of Tennessee shows that every mile of our lake’s shoreline brings \$1-Million/Year to local economies. The 5-reservoirs upstream of Wheeler together comprise 2,241 shoreline miles bringing in \$2.4 Billion annually. Understanding silver carp have reduced the economic income of *The Land Between the Lakes* by more than 50%, if they reach us, it will cost this region more than \$1-Billion annually in lost income. Clearly, protecting this economy, let alone the ecology, fishery, and recreation of our natural resource must be undertaken. The Sonic Barrier being installed at Guntersville is only 90% effective, thus will not stop them—TWRA knows this. Electric barriers are the only choice.

Understand, though the word “electrocution” has unfortunately been used when discussing electric barriers, electrocution is simply “Impossible.” Electrocutions in pools and at marinas is because the current is 120-Volts Alternating-Current. The voltage at the electrodes in electric barriers ranges from 0.2 to 1.2-Volts pulsed Direct-Current. This is less than in a small AAA-battery, which is 1.5-Volts DC. We must not fear electric barriers. This technology is 50-years old and many have been installed and are in use in the U.S. and Europe. There has never been an electrocution.

Presently, Tennessee has a \$600 Million Budget Surplus. I am asking you to do everything in your power to support and advance using a small portion of this money to install electric barriers to protect the remaining 5-Reservoirs still free of the silver-carp. Too, I ask that you help form a multiagency taskforce to make these barriers a reality.

Please contact the founder and chairman of the *Watts Bar Ecology and Fishery Council* (wbefc.org), Dr. Timothy Joseph, an experienced fishery biologist. He needs your help and advice on forming an interagency task force. Dr. Joseph’s contact information is: timjosephphd@gmail.com (phone: 865-354-6620).

Please understand the critical importance of this request, and I ask you to take this on as a priority. So very much is at stake. If you don’t, we will lose this major economic engine, and the most precious and wondrous natural resource this region has to offer. You can help, please do.

Thank you kindly for your support in this most serious issue.

Genuine Regards,