

Dear Governor Lee:

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.”

The same will be said about the Upper TN River Basin: Nickajack, Chickamauga, Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Ft. Loudon and Tellico lakes if these invasive fish aren’t stopped. One silver carp can lay 2-5 million eggs in a summer. They are plankton feeders and quickly destroy the bottom of the food chain, thus the entire ecosystem, for no fish can survive without these organisms. When startled by a boat, they jump in mass, as high as 10 ft. They weigh up to 50 lbs. and have broken jaws, fractured skulls, knocked children out of boats—they can easily break one’s neck.

The only sure way to stop them is with electric barriers at a key upstream lock immediately. This would cost about \$25 Million; however, this cost is nothing compared to what will be lost. A TVA study by the University of Tennessee shows that these lakes are responsible for a \$2.6 Billion annual economy. 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 revenue.

The word “electrocution” has unfortunately been used when discussing electric barriers, however, electrocution is simply “**Impossible**.” If a person fell in the water the amperage would be 0.0045 amps, or less than 5/1,000th of an amp. We must not fear electric barriers. This technology is 60-years old and more than 50-electric barriers are in use in the U.S. and others in Europe.

At the request of Michigan and Ill, the Corps of Engineers will be constructing an electric and sonic barrier at the Joliet lock in Ill to prevent the carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Tennessee must follow their example, for clearly, the economy, ecology, fishery, and recreation of the entire Upper TN River Basin must be protected.

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 an electric/sonic barrier to protect the Upper TN River Basin still free of the silver-carp. I ask that you help form a multiagency taskforce to make these barriers a reality, and include non-government fishery biologists and the WBEFC.

For more information, contact the founder and chairman of the *Watts Bar Ecology and Fishery Council* (wbefc.org), Dr. Timothy Joseph, an experienced fishery biologist. Dr. Joseph’s contact information is: timjosephphd@gmail.com (phone: 865-228-2590). He will provide all the scientific and economic data in a PowerPoint Presentation upon request.

Please understand the critical importance of this request, for if we don’t stop these fish, Eastern TN will face the most significant environmental and economic disaster it has ever faced. The devastating ash-spill was nothing compared to this. Too, this disaster will go on forever and can never be mitigated. I ask you to take this on as a priority. So very much is at stake and TIME is critical—we must begin immediately. If we 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,