

Example Letter to Legislatures (Change in any way you wish)

Dear ???:

If you aren't already aware, the sport fishing, recreation, economy, and property values at 'The Land Between the Lakes' (Kentucky and Barkley Lakes) have been decimated by the invasive silver carp. State Senator Bill Powers, and U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell both confirm this. The exact same economic and ecological devastation will take place in the remaining four silver-carp free lakes here in the Upper TN River Basin if they are not stopped.

The economic damage alone will be over **\$1.3 billion-dollars annually** to this region. This is not speculation, it is factual. We will no longer be able to tow our grandkids on tubes, or ski, or jet-ski, or even use a boat without grave risk, for the fish have broken jaws, fractured skulls, and knocked children and adults out of boats.

There exists only **one** option to prevent the devastation. Watts Bar Lock must be closed immediately, just as they closed the St. Anthony's lock in Minnesota to stop the carp. Then we can look to fund construction of an electric barrier. If the lock is not closed within a few months, the silver carp **will** pass through the Watts Bar lock and continue up the TN River, destroying Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Fort Loudon, and Tellico Lakes, with over 1,600 miles of beautiful shoreline. The fish are presently in Chickamauga Lake and will soon reach the Watts Bar lock.

Any financial burden on the river transportation industry (a few million dollars) pales in comparison to the \$1.3 billion annually loss to this region, let alone the loss of recreation and small businesses. This financial and ecological devastation will be permanent and only grow worst as time goes by, as is presently happening in many lakes.

I am asking you to speak up in defense of our beautiful lakes, the economy, environment, recreation, property values, and businesses on the lakes, and request Governor Lee to work with TVA, the Corps of Engineers, and the Federal government to immediately close the lock. This action will leave behind the greatest legacy imaginable, "*Saving the entire Upper TN River Basin from environmental and economic devastation.*"

Time is the friend of the silver carp and the enemy of our lakes, and time for talk, planning, and concern is over. More time spent discussing this issue will only allow the silver carp entry into our lakes. I ask you to not let that happen and shut the door to the silver carp. Please, don't allow what has taken place at so many other lakes and rivers to take place here when it can so easily be prevented, merely by closing the lock immediately. This simply is the **ONLY** option we have to save our lakes. Our four wondrous lakes are irreplaceable and represent the major economic engine of this region. Please take the only action that will prevent them from being destroyed. Help to close Watts Bar Lock.