

**\*\*Alliance for the Great Lakes\*\*Audubon New York\*\*Buffalo Audubon Society\*\*Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper\*\*Don't Waste Michigan\*\*Dwight Lydell Chapter - Izaak Walton League\*\*Fenton - Izaak Walton League\*\*Genesee Valley Audubon Society\*\*Great Lakes Committee-Izaak Walton League \*\*Great Lakes United\*\*Grand Haven Charterboat Association\*\*Illinois Council-Trout Unlimited\*\*Lake Ontario Trout & Salmon Association \*\*Michigan Division-Izaak Walton League\*\*National Wildlife Federation\*\*Nature Abounds\*\*New York Division- Izaak Walton League of America\*\*Ohio Buckeye All State Chapter-Izaak Walton League of America\*\*Ohio Division-Izaak Walton League of America\*\*Ohio Environmental Council\*\*Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes\*\*Salmon Unlimited\*\*Save the Dunes\*\*Save Lake Superior Association\*\*The Nature Conservancy-Florida Chapter\*\*The Wildlife Society\*\*Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council \*\*Vera Cruz Yacht Club\*\***

April 30, 2012

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Slaughter,

On behalf of the 28 undersigned organizations we are writing to encourage you to take the leadership role in the House of Representatives to improve the regulation of the live wild animal trade and preventing future invasions by non-native species and animal diseases. We represent environmental, conservation, fishing, boating, and religious organizations from across New York, as well as representatives from the eight Great Lakes states and organizations from the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species. We share a common priority of preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species.

The current Lacey Act injurious species listing approach is 111 years old, widely considered ineffective, and costs the nation both in terms of drastic environmental impacts and major avoidable economic impacts. As a leading import market, the United States receives hundreds of millions of live wild animals each year. At least 2,500 different species of non-native wildlife were imported to the United States in the last decade. Research indicates that more than 300 of those species are already known to be potential invaders or present disease risk, however the Lacey Act process to review and potentially regulate these species is unnecessarily long and typically occurs after the harmful species has been brought into the country. The Asian carp invasion is the prime

example of how federal reforms to screen species for risk *before* importation could save the nation's natural resources, and hundreds of millions of dollars in control costs.

Improvements in regulating the live wild animal trade will help protect the Great Lakes as well as the rest of the nation from purposefully imported invasive species. Reforms we believe are necessary should be based on the principles articulated by the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species, including:

- Maintains consistency with existing law as far as definitions, burdens of proof and prohibited acts.
- Exempts all “domesticated” taxa from possible regulation.
- Provides immediate administrative relief for injurious species listings
- Mandates pre-import risk screening for all new non-native wildlife within a reasonable number of years after enactment.
- Establishes a precautionary regulatory category of “Not Authorized Pending Risk Analysis.”
- Provides USFWS authority to make emergency regulatory decisions.
- Provides USFWS authority to regulate wildlife disease risks.
- Includes user fees to help pay for risk screening program.
- Enhances State/Federal cooperation.
- Provides some “grandfathering” assurance to pet owners that they won’t be criminalized.

Our organizations are asking you to take a lead sponsorship role and will support your efforts in seeing a proactive bill to reform the Lacey Act introduced. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Nalbone from Great Lakes United at: [jen@glu.org](mailto:jen@glu.org) or (716) 213-0408 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Joel Brammeier  
President and CEO  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
Chicago, Illinois

Sean Mahar  
Director of Government Relations  
and Communications  
Audubon New York  
Albany, New York

Loren H. Smith, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Buffalo Audubon Society  
North Java, New York

Jill Spisiak Jedlicka  
Director of Ecological Programs &  
Riverkeeper  
Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper  
Buffalo, New York

Michael J. Keegan  
Co-chair  
Don't Waste Michigan  
Monroe, Michigan

Robert Stegmier  
Conservation Chair  
Dwight Lydell Chapter - Izaak Walton  
League  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

John MacBeth  
President  
Fenton - Izaak Walton League  
Fenton, Michigan

June Summers  
President  
Genesee Valley Audubon Society  
Rochester, New York

Jill Crafton  
Chair  
Great Lakes Committee-Izaak Walton  
League  
Duluth, Minnesota

Jennifer Nalbone  
Director, Navigation and Invasive  
Species  
Great Lakes United  
Buffalo, New York

Captain Ron Tabiadon  
President  
Grand Haven Charterboat Association  
Grand Haven, Michigan

Arnie Leder  
Council Representative  
Illinois Council-Trout Unlimited  
Mendota, Illinois

Patrick DiNicola  
Treasurer  
Lake Ontario Trout & Salmon  
Association  
Getzville, New York

John Sturgis  
President  
Michigan Division-Izaak Walton League  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Andy Buchsbaum  
Regional Executive Director, Great  
Lakes Office  
National Wildlife Federation  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Melinda Huges-Wert  
President  
Nature Abounds  
Clearfield, Pennsylvania

Conrad Strozik  
President  
New York Division - Izaak Walton  
League of America  
Cazenovia, New York

Rick Graham  
President  
Ohio Buckeye All State Chapter-Izaak  
Walton League of America  
Monroeville, Ohio

Jim Storer  
President  
Ohio Division-Izaak Walton League of  
America  
Willoughby, Ohio

Kristy Meyer  
Director of Agricultural & Clean Water  
Programs  
Ohio Environmental Council  
Columbus, Ohio

Irene Senn  
Coordinator  
Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes  
St. Francis, Wisconsin

Jim Nelligan  
President  
Salmon Unlimited  
Chicago, Illinois

Nicole Barker  
Executive Director  
Save the Dunes  
Michigan City, Indiana

LeRoger Lind  
President  
Save Lake Superior Association  
Two Harbors, Minnesota

Kristina Serbesoff-King  
Associated Director of Conservation  
The Nature Conservancy-Florida  
Chapter  
Hobe Sound, Florida

Paul Krausman  
President  
The Wildlife Society  
Bethesda, Maryland

Jennifer McKay  
Policy Specialist  
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council  
Petoskey, Michigan

Amy Hueber  
Former Commodore  
Vera Cruz Yacht Club  
Mexico, New York