

PORT AND SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

2561 SOUTH BROADWAY
GREEN BAY, WI 54304

PHONE: (920) 492-4950 FAX: (920) 492-4957

CHARLES J. LARSCHEID
PORT AND SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

April 18, 2008

Honorable James Oberstar, Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington D.C. 20515

Honorable James Oberstar:

My name is Dean Haen, Port Manager for Brown County. Brown County oversees and administers the activities of the Port of Green Bay. I would like to thank Congressman Steve Kagen for bringing the opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment regarding Lake Levels in the Great Lakes to Green Bay today.

Water Levels

The Port of Green Bay brings in 225 to 250 ships each year carrying over two (2) million tons of cargo needed for manufacturing, farming and construction in Northeast Wisconsin. This cargo reaches south to Sheboygan, west to Wausau and north into the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The cargo carried into Green Bay on the waterways of the Great Lakes is valued at over \$300M.

In 2007, the Port of Green Bay had an economic impact of more than \$76 million and supported 615 local jobs in Green Bay according to the 2007 Economic Impact Study conducted by the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. The study also found that port activities produced an estimated \$23 million in income, \$2.5 million in state taxes, \$2.1 million in local taxes and provided an estimated \$36 million in gross state product.

Although declining slightly from 2006, the shipping industry continues to be the most cost effective method of transportation for commodities and generates employment opportunities for the region. Since 1999, the total economic output of the port has increased by more than \$20 million and the number of port supported jobs has increased by 57 percent (260 jobs).

The numbers I have presented are significant and could be enhanced if lake levels were near normal. For the past 5-6 years, the port has been operating at water levels 12-24 inches below normal and this affects fuel and cost efficiencies. For every inch of water unavailable, a ship must leave 100 tons of cargo behind. This means that ships entering Green Bay today are leaving between 1,200 to 2,400 tons of cargo behind. This is 10-15% of their carrying capacity. Leaving cargo behind, means more trips into Green Bay, higher costs to users and consumers and puts businesses at risk of not receiving all of their raw materials before the shipping season closes for winter.

The Port of Green Bay is requesting that further research be conducted to determine if manmade withdraws or the deepening of the St. Clair River are contributing to sustained low water levels in the Great Lakes. If the research determines that manmade efforts have lowered

lake levels then corrective efforts must be made to reverse the effects or we would like the Green Bay harbor to be dredged deeper to increase its efficiencies.

Ballast Water

The Great Lakes ports are with in the the manufacturing hub of America and a significant percent of our population lives in the Great Lakes region. Our ports are and will continue to be essential, but we need Congress to solve the aquatic invasive species problem that is tainting our industry's perception and ability to grow.

Port and transportation related agencies, associations and industries opposes state regulation of interstate and international shipping and believes that state by state patch work of varying regulation of ballast water will lead to a chaotic regulatory environment that will cripple the shipping industry and fail to solve the problem.

The Port industry endorses a strong, uniform federal approach to the protection of the Great Lakes - and all U.S. waters - from invasive species via ballast water. We urges Congress to reauthorizing the National Invasive Species Act of 1996.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at haen_dr@co.brown.wi.us or by phone 920-492-4953 and by fax 920-492-4957.

Sincerely,



Dean Haen
Port Manager