Ebind.V

Bradley J.M. Mali, II
1984 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

April 30, 2008

Congressman Joe Knollenberg
30833 Northwestern Hwy
Suite 100
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Dear Congressman Knollenberg,

I am a 13 year old Life Scout from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. I came across the attached article while working on my Citizen of the Nation merit badge. My family and I are always concerned about the environment of our nation. We enjoy boating and fishing on the Great Lakes, and also on Michigan's inland lakes. We have seen first hand the damage zebra mussels can do to a lake. Not to mention what they can do to a foot when you step on them!

I would like you to know that I support you in your efforts to protect our Great Lakes. Thank you for doing such a good job for all of us.

Yours in Scouting,

Bradley Mali II

Bradley J.M. Mali, II
Life Scout
Franklin, Troop 1699

Enclosure
cc: Washington Office

www.knollenberg.house.gov

Joe Knollengberg
Contact: Nate Bailey 202-225-5802

Knollenberg Fights to Keep Invasive Species out of the Great Lakes
Coast Guard bill includes important measure to keep dirty ballast water out

Washington, Apr 24 -

Congressman Joe Knollenberg (MI-09) today urged his colleagues to support new rules that would protect the Great Lakes from invasive species spread by ballast water discharges from ocean-going vessels.

"Today's legislation marks an important milestone in protecting our Great Lakes," Knollenberg said. "For years ships have brought with them the scourge of invasive species. I am proud to have helped bring about new treatment requirements. These changes are an important move that will protect our Great Lakes waters for generations to come."

H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007, contains a measure that will strengthen ballast water treatment requirements for oceangoing ships. The ballast water treatment provisions included in this bill will go a long way in preventing new invasive species from spreading their wrath throughout our waters. Requiring ships to exchange their ballast water 200 miles outside of the United States will help solve the problem in the short term, before ships are required to have ballast water treatment equipment installed in their ships by 2015 to ensure all nonnative living organisms are destroyed before the ballast water can be released into the Great Lakes.

Invasive species such as zebra mussels, sea lamprey, round gobies and Asian carp are just a few of the known invasive species that wreak havoc on the Great Lakes ecosystem, disrupting the food chain, damaging ships and power plants, and threatening municipal water supplies. While not all of these invasive species have made their way into the Great Lakes through untreated ballast water, ballast water still remains one of the most common avenues into the Great Lakes for destructive aquatic invasive species.