Steve Lorey
817 S. Wilson
Royal Oak, MI
48067

Congressman Joseph Knollenberg
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Joseph Knollenberg,

I've written to you before on the subject of clean water, and I'm writing to you again on one of the current threats to it. I urge you to support the Great Lakes Invasive Species Control Act, H.R. 801. The broad array of threats to our water is daunting, from diversion and extraction, to lowering lake levels and continued industrial pollution. Yet the introduction of invasive species is a significant and immediate threat; our state and our region need quick and decisive protection.

I congratulate your fellow party members Candice Miller, Thaddeus McCotter and Vernon Ehlers for serving as cosponsors for this bill. I know you work closely with Rep. Miller, and have cosponsored similar legislation with her on this matter. I encourage you to assist here also. Only six of the 33 cosponsors are from Michigan; having the full complement on board would be a boost.

It's heartening to see bipartisan support on other bills, like the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act, that has the entire Michigan delegation serving as sponsor and co-sponsors.

I read on the 'Issues' portion of your website that you support efforts for sediment cleaning and wildlife restoration. Unfortunately, the recent dioxin trouble in the Saginaw River is an example of the kind of clean-up that remains necessary. This contamination occurred years ago, and similar hot spots will remain even after this one is removed. It's emblematic of the kind of permanent damage we risk the longer we delay. If anyone suggests to you that tough standards will hurt us economically, please consider the costs that we will pay in the future to try and mitigate damage like this. This should be a reminder to all Michiganders of the cost of inaction.

I applaud Michigan for taking the lead on ballast water restrictions by passing a state law. But the downside is that we risk losing business to other ports in the region. Action at the federal level will put us back on a level playing field in the region and help improve our business climate.