

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATE OF ILLINOIS FILES BRIEF AGAINST MICHIGAN’S SUIT
TO CLOSE CHICAGO-AREA LOCKS
*TOWING INDUSTRY AFFIDAVIT DETAILS DISASTROUS EFFECT ON ECONOMY***

Michigan’s lawsuit seeking closure of Chicago-area locks to prevent the spread of the invasive Asian Carp into the Great Lakes would have disastrous effects on the region’s economy, AWO Senior Vice President – Regional Affairs Lynn Muench said in an [affidavit](#) against the suit. The affidavit, which was filed on January 5 as part of the [defendant brief from the State of Illinois](#), details the economic harm that would be caused should Michigan prevail. “The barge and towing operators that move cargo, the shipyards that service the towing industry, and terminals that receive, ship, and store cargo, would suffer massive loss of business as a result of the lock closures and other measures requested by Michigan,” Ms. Muench states in the affidavit. Furthermore, the lock closure “would result in significant job losses, in the hundreds and perhaps thousands.” The brief also outlines the environmental harm that would result from closing the locks, as moving cargo to less-efficient modes of transportation such as truck and rail would significantly increase harmful air emissions. Finally, Ms. Muench states that, because there are other waterway connections between the Mississippi river system and the Great Lakes, closing the locks will ruin the area’s economy without halting the spread of the Asian Carp.

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