

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Anne Burns
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(314) 308-0378**AWO Gratified by Supreme Court Ruling Against Closing Chicago Locks**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Waterways Operators (AWO), the national trade association for the tugboat, towboat and barge industry, hailed the U.S. Supreme Court decision announced yesterday to deny the State of Michigan’s motion to close Chicago area locks.

AWO is gratified that the Supreme Court’s action will keep waterborne commerce flowing and will avoid the devastating impact that closing the locks would have on Midwest consumers and the hard-working Americans employed in the towing industry and other industries that rely on commodities shipped by barge. The benefits of barging go beyond the fact that it is the safest, most economical way to ship cargo. Barging has the smallest carbon footprint of all transportation modes and is the most environmentally friendly way to move critical commodities, reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

AWO has endorsed nine actions other than lock closures put forward by a federal agency consortium in its Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework that should be implemented to stop the Asian carp. AWO remains committed to working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and other federal and state agencies to prevent the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes while ensuring the free flow of essential commerce.

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