

## **Resolution 22-11-10-02**

A resolution in support of efforts by the Tennessee State Legislature, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA), Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission (TWFC), The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to prevent the spread of invasive Asian carp, especially silver carp, into uninvaded waterways, especially those located within the boundaries of the City of Kingston in Roane County, Tennessee.

**WHEREAS**, invasive Asian carp, especially silver carp, have been and are presently regulated by the State through the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of research studies show conclusively/prove that if the invasive silver carp is allowed to manifest itself in a lake that they destroy the natural ecosystem, alter fish population diversity, seriously deplete game fish populations eliminating tournament fishing, and make recreational boating hazardous and life threatening; and

**WHEREAS**, the silver carp have triggered a >50% economic downturn, destroyed bass fishing, cabin rentals, and lake recreation in Barkley and Kentucky Lakes, the area known as "The Land Between the Lakes," which is an area much like our East Tennessee River Lakes; and

**WHEREAS**, when there is only a 50% downturn in the lake's economic income due to the silver carp takeover, as is what happened in "The Land Between the Lakes," using the economic revenue data from the U.T. and TVA report of 2016, the "Annual" economic loss by county will be: Roane-\$193 million, Rhea-\$196 million, Meigs-\$157 million, Loudon-\$155 million; and

**WHEREAS**, B.A.S.S. the leading U.S. bass fishing organization states in their publication "BASSMASTER" that the number one most serious threat to bass and bass fishing is invasive Asian carp; and

**WHEREAS**, infestations of invasive Asian carp severely impact waterway use for swimming, motor boating, water skiing, tubing, sailing, and small craft boating (canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding), seriously endangering waterway users with physical harm (fractured skulls, broken jaws), impacting the recreational value of Tennessee Lakes, detracts from tourism associated with the waterways, and has a significant negative impact on the regional economics brought about by local/tourism recreational use; and

**WHEREAS**, like what has taken place around Kentucky and Barkley lakes, invasive Asian carp incursions will reduce property values and reduce the county tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, once invasive Asian carp are allowed to infest a waterway the invasive species will never be eliminated from infested waters resulting in the inevitable destruction of the waterway fishery and ecosystem, and like Kentucky Lake, funds will be required to capture and remove silver carp from our lake (9.5 - 10 million pounds of silver carp were removed from Barkley and Kentucky Lake in 2021); and

**WHEREAS**, numerous states spent and are spending millions of dollars every year attempting to control invasive silver carp, which can be prevented in our lakes if they are stopped; and

**WHEREAS**, TWRA is planning to install bioacoustics barriers at locks in the Tennessee River Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, TWRA's priority is to begin barrier placement at Kentucky Lake, behind the massive population of silver carp, and continue barrier placement upstream, with the last barrier at Watts Bar Lock; and

**WHEREAS**, TWRA's plan will continue to staisrtstep large populations of silver carp upstream into all the silver carp free lakes of the Upper TN River Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, TWRA's stated mission it to "to preserve, conserve, manage, protect, and enhance the fish and wildlife of the state"; and

**WHEREAS**, the definition of "protect" is to "prevent" harm, "preserve" is to "maintain in its original or existing state, and "enhance" is "intensify, increase, or further improve the quality, and value"; and

**WHEREAS**, TWRA's barrier placement priority will staisrtstep the silver carp upstream into all the lakes and will not protect, preserve, or enhance the ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, TWRA's barrier placement priority will destroy the ecosystem and cause a major economic decline in the region; and

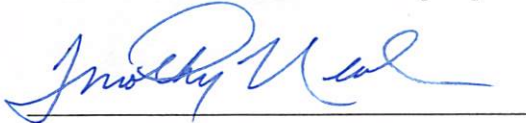
**WHEREAS**, the only way to protect, preserve, and enhance the silver carp free lakes is to "prevent" silver carp access into the upper basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the nation's leading silver carp experts state that installing the barriers starting at Watts Bar Lock then Chickamauga and continue downstream has an "excellent" chance, and the only possible way to save Chickamauga, Watts Bar, Melton Hill, Fort Loudon, and Tellico lakes from silver carp devastation; and

**WHEREAS**, reversing TWRA's barrier placement priority is the only way to protect the upper basin from the silver carp;

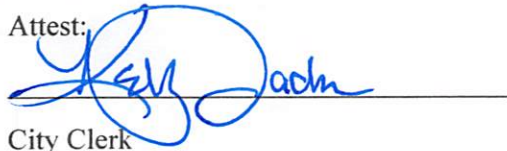
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Kingston that the City of Kingston endorse and support the request that TWRA and other supporting agencies reverse the present barrier placement plan for silver carp obstruction and start protective measures above Watts Bar Dam and proceed downstream with a silver carp barrier construction.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage, this 10 day of November, 2022.



Mayor Timothy Neal

Attest:

  
City Clerk