



March 22, 2011

Honorable Jo Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

The members of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), and our 10 affiliated regional societies are dedicated to fostering an awareness of aquatic and terrestrial weeds and their impact on our environment. We promote research, education, and outreach activities related to invasive weeds and represent a diverse group of public and private stakeholders with an interest in effective invasive weed management in both managed and natural ecosystems.

Our members were **shocked and disappointed** with the recent decision by your office to eliminate the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works 2012 budget. We cannot understand your justification for cutting the nation's only federally authorized program for research and development of effective, science-based strategies to manage invasive aquatic weed species. **For over 40 years**, the Corps of Engineers has served as the lead federal agency for developing and sharing new and improved technologies to protect our nation's aquatic resources from invasive weeds. The APCRP is **the only program of its kind** and is not duplicated by any other federal or state agency. The APCRP investigates biological, chemical, ecological and integrated approaches to invasive plant management in aquatic ecosystems and is **vital to the Army Corps of Engineers' mission** of strengthening our Nation's security, energizing the economy, and reducing risks from natural disasters.

- We strongly urge you to **restore funding at \$4 million for FY 2012** for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program.

We commend the Corps of Engineers for their dedication and efforts over the past 100 years to generate and share knowledge gained through aquatic plant control activities such as the APCRP. However, the elimination of this research program will have an **enormous negative impact** on the Nation's water resources. Annually, invasive aquatic plants cost the Nation \$250 million and this cost is rising. New exotic pests arrive each year and established infestations continue to spread – **in all 50 states**.

Invasive aquatic species are a form of biological pollution. If they are not managed, we can expect greater National impacts, and increased revenue losses, from those very problems the APCRP was established to manage:

- 1) Increased flood damage
- 2) Disrupted generation of hydropower
- 3) Disrupted delivery of drinking, irrigation, and industrial water supplies
- 4) Decreased property values
- 5) Obstructed commercial navigation
- 6) Reduced tourism revenue
- 7) Destroyed fish and wildlife habitat
- 8) Exacerbated recovery plans for endangered species
- 9) Increased native species extinctions

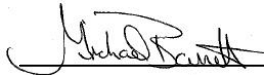
We believe that continued support for the APCRP is of utmost importance. We are aware that the Corps of Engineers has many competing fiscal needs; however, we also recognize that, as the largest federal provider of water-based recreation, hydropower, navigation, and flood control in the nation, the Corps has an unparalleled responsibility to preserve and protect our nation's water resources. If funding for the APCRP is eliminated in FY 2012, important National objectives will be impacted as follows:

- The Nation's **only** federally authorized research program for managing invasive aquatic plants will be terminated.
- **Access** by agencies, states, and private sector to new and improved APCRP technologies will cease, with no comparable assistance available.
- Experienced APCRP scientists and research facilities **will be lost**, and will not be replaced.
- Current long-term research projects for managing invasive aquatic plants **will end** before their results can be utilized.
- The development of future technologies for newly emerging invasive aquatic plants will **never be started**.
- The Nation's ability to halt the degradation of its waters and restore them **will be lost**, while the economic and environment costs from invasive aquatic plants accelerate.

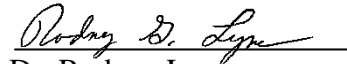
We believe that supporting a vital and very successful APCRP to maintain these valuable resources is critical to the Nation's successful aquatic ecosystem restoration and stewardship. We also recognize that the benefits from the APCRP and the knowledge gained from its work **far outweigh** the cost of maintaining this nationally significant research program.

We, the undersigned, request that funding be restored for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program at a **minimum of \$4 million for fiscal year 2012** and beyond.

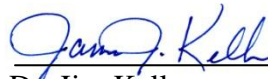
Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Barrett
President
Weed Science Society of America



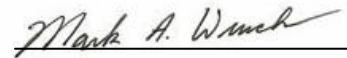
Dr. Rodney Lym
President-Elect
Weed Science Society of America



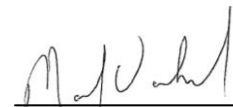
Dr. Jim Kells
Vice President
Weed Science Society of America



Dr. John Jachetta
Past President
Weed Science Society of America



Dr. Mark Wrucke
President
North Central Weed Science Society



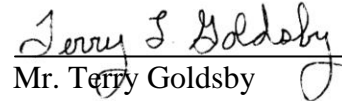
Dr. Mark VanGessel
President
Northeastern Weed Science Society



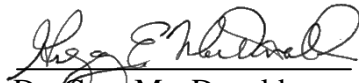
Dr. Barry Brecke
President
Southern Weed Science Society



Dr. Tyler Koschnick
President-Elect
Aquatic Plant Management Society



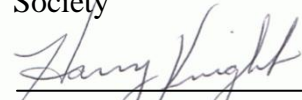
Mr. Terry Goldsby
Vice President
Aquatic Plant Management Society



Dr. Greg MacDonald
Past President
Aquatic Plant Management Society



Dr. Vernon V. Vandiver Jr.
President
Florida Aquatic Plant Management
Society



Mr. Harry Knight
President
MidSouth Aquatic Plant
Management Society



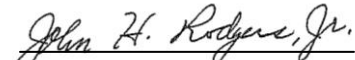
Mr. Dick Pinagel
President
Midwest Aquatic Plant Management
Society



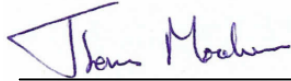
Ms. Jo Ann Dunlap
Vice-President
Northeast Aquatic Plant
Management Society



Dr. Vanelle Peterson
President
Western Society of Weed Science



Dr. John Rodgers, Jr.
President
South Carolina Aquatic Plant
Management Society



Mr. Thomas Moorhouse
President
Western Aquatic Plant Management Society

cc: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
US Army Corps of Engineers, Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp