



**Lowell Russell**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
21<sup>st</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
PARTS OF LOUDON & MONROE  
COUNTIES

**MEMBER OF COMMITTEES**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**21<sup>st</sup> District,**

Over the past year I have received many questions concerning Asian Carp. I live on Tellico Lake and share the same concerns, and agree that action must be taken. On, November 26, 2019, I met with Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) Chris Richardson and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Dennis Baxter. Senator Yager and I were briefed on the current programs to control the Asian Carp population. The current programs being tested were a program to harvest the carp, a sound barrier, an electric barrier, and a CO<sub>2</sub> barrier. According to both TWRA and TVA these programs were currently being evaluated to determine the most effective management and control of the carp.

The next step was for the professionals that analyze the above mentioned programs to make a recommendation. On, February 20, 2020, TWRA requested approximately \$50 million to address the challenges and issues surrounding Asian Carp and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Their request is for \$10 million per year over the next 5 budget years. I followed up with TWRA to inquire about their position on closing any navigation locks in the state. However the navigation locks are not under their authority.

I will be fully supporting TWRA's request.

Concerns about the Asian Carp can be made to TWRA by contacting them at 1-800-372-3928, or [ans.twra@tn.gov](mailto:ans.twra@tn.gov). Requesting navigation locks to be closed at dams can be made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) since the locks are under their authority. I would suggest contacting your U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator to assist in that inquiry.

If I can be further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lowell Russell".

**Lowell Russell**  
**State Representative**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District**

LR/tjs