



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION  
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

May 9, 2005

Dr. Condoleeza Rice  
U.S. Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

by fax 1-202-647-2283

Dear Dr. Rice,

**Re: Transboundary Water Management and Devil's Lake Emergency Outlet**

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) is one of Canada's oldest environmental groups with a long record of advocacy for improved transboundary co-operative water protection and management in the Great Lakes. Our organization has helped foster and improve some of the most important and precedent setting Canada and U.S. actions in the Great Lakes. CELA has been involved in strengthening the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 and have served most recently on an Advisory Committee to the Council of Great Lakes Governors now finalizing drafts of two legally binding agreements to prevent harmful withdrawals and exports from the shared waters of the Great Lakes. These agreements are known as the Great Lakes Annex.

We were encouraged when your President George Bush shared the goals of these Agreements by stating that no water would leave the Great Lakes. We are very concerned that the Devil's Lake Emergency Outlet could not only have harmful impacts on Manitoba's waters but could effect other transboundary waters by setting a precedent of approving a project prior to an environmental assessment of it's impacts. As you know from your travels to many water short areas, at least a third of the world's nations will be facing water crises within the next several decades. North America will not escape these challenges which are being accelerated by climate change. It is imperative that we do not resolve these challenges unilaterally. We will need to build our expertise and rely on the International Joint Commission (IJC) that was created by the *Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909* to protect our shared boundary waters from unnecessary contamination and harm. CELA urges you to join with the Canadian Government, other learned scientists and concerned groups to ask for a formal reference on the Devil's Lake by the IJC immediately. We must act fast to ensure the mid-west avoids replicating the devastation we have caused to the economy and ecosystem of the Great Lakes from pollution and invasive species.

Yours truly,  
Canadian Environmental Law Association

Paul Muldoon  
Executive Director

Copies to:

Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Pierre Pettigrew

Canadian Prime Minister Hon. Paul Martin

U.S. President George W. Bush

U.S. Chair International Joint Commission, Dennis Schornack

Canadian Chair International Joint Commission Herb Gray

