



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARK DAYTON  
MINNESOTA

June 10, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
The Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

I strongly support the Government of Canada's request that the Devils Lake outlet project being constructed by the State of North Dakota be immediately referred to the International Joint Commission. Without the concurrence of the Canadian government, the outlet will seriously damage the relationship between the United States and Canada. Allowing any state to act unilaterally in its own interest in violation of the commitments the governments of the United States and Canada have made to resolve cooperatively their differences would destroy the integrity and reliability of those agreements.

The intended Devils Lake outlet project is strongly opposed by the Governments of Minnesota and Canada, because it will direct poor-quality water from a lake, which has been landlocked for almost a thousand years, into the Red River. Water from Devils Lake could transfer new species, microbes, or contaminants into the Red River, which could irreparably damage Minnesota's and Canada's water systems. The State of North Dakota intends to ignore those risks and Canada's and Minnesota's expressed objections.

The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 established the International Joint Commission to resolve disputes over the boundary waters of the United States and Canada. I support the Canadian government's expressed position that the Commission must immediately assert its jurisdiction over this project. Once it begins to discharge its water into the Red River, the effects will be irreversible, as will its damage to the relationship between the two countries.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dayton', written over a light-colored background.

Mark Dayton United  
States Senator