

RAHM EMANUEL
5TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1305

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1319 LONGWORTH
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
202-225-4061

CHICAGO OFFICE:
3742 WEST IRVING PARK ROAD
CHICAGO, IL 60618
773-267-5926

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Condoleeza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

I am writing to request a review of North Dakota's proposal for the Devils Lake Outlet by the International Joint Commission (IJC).

As you know, North Dakota's construction of an outlet from Devils Lake may pose an environmental risk to surrounding states and provinces. Additionally, the outlet may violate the *Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909*. This treaty established the IJC and set a precedent of bilateral cooperation that has served the interests of both Canada and the United States for nearly a century. As North Dakota's proposal has moved forward over the objections of the Canadian Government, the Great Lakes Commission, and some of the neighboring states, I feel that it is vital for the IJC to conduct an independent and credible review of the project.

My home state of Illinois values our relationship with Canada. In 2003, Illinois exported \$8.8 billion in merchandise to Canada, more than 32% of foreign exports that year. Furthermore, the precedent set by the Devils Lake Outlet could have direct repercussions for the residents of Illinois. Just as the bodies of water downstream from Devils Lake may be threatened by the pollution and invasive species that have no regard for national borders, the Great Lakes system shares the same concerns. Should the Devils Lake outlet violate the *Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909*, Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes could be harmed by making it easier for other states and provinces to avoid proper environmental assessments of trans-boundary water projects.

The potential problems of the Devils Lake outlet make it crucial for the State Department to join with the Canadian Government in referring this project to the IJC. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress