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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0307**

May 26, 2005

COMMITTEES:  
RESOURCES  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
APPOINTMENTS:  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ENVIRONMENTAL  
TASK FORCE CHAIR  
DEMOCRATIC PRIVATE CALENDAR OBJECTOR

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

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to respectfully request that the International Joint Commission (IJC) immediately review the construction of an outlet for the Devil's Lake in North Dakota. As the canal is already under construction, it is imperative that a review by the IJC take place prior to its imminent completion.

The independent, bi-national IJC under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 is designed to resolve disputes concerning water quantity and quality along the boundary between the United States and Canada. As a representative of a district along the U.S.-Mexico border, I wish to ensure that our international agreements and treaties are fully honored. To that end, I firmly believe the Devil's Lake issue deserves the attention of the IJC.

I understand that this project presents an ecological risk to the environment, not only of Canada, but along the course of the Sheyenne River and the Red River through North Dakota and Minnesota. Devil's Lake is an isolated glacial lake that has not had an outlet to the Hudson Bay watershed for a millennium. Water flowing out of the lake into this watershed will contain pollutants and invasive species that could cause considerable harm downstream.

As a member of the Resources Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and representing a desert region impacted by invasive, non-native species, I am intimately familiar with the efforts of many states and local entities to eradicate these species that cause millions of dollars in damage to watersheds every year.

Referring the matter to the IJC is the best way to ensure that this issue can be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of both the United States and Canada. I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

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