

GIL GUTKNECHT
1ST DISTRICT MINNESOTA



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2301

June 1, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action regarding the outlet that North Dakota has been constructing from Devils Lake. The outlet is very near completion yet the possible adverse environmental effects of the discharge of these waters have not been thoroughly investigated. We believe that this project and the concerns about possible environmental damage merit the immediate attention of the International Joint Commission (IJC).

Diverting waters from the Devils Lake basin could have irreversible effects on the introduction of non-native species, the solids content of the receiving water and the timing and flow of amounts of water in the Sheyenne River, the Red River of the North and Lake Winnipeg, Canada. Disrupting the ecosystems of these waterways and the associated environmental damage would have far-reaching economic impacts. It is imperative that work on the outlet cease until an IJC review can be conducted.

Minnesotans feel very strongly that the long-standing cooperation between the United States and our Canadian neighbors should not be compromised by the unilateral action of one state allowing water from Devils Lake to be diverted into Canadian waters without a thorough examination of the possible adverse impacts. The integrity of our 96 year old Boundary Waters Treaty depends on your referral.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gil Gutknecht". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gil Gutknecht
Member of Congress