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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

April 21, 2005

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

There is an international environmental hazard that poses an urgent threat to the wildlife habitat of Minnesota and Canada. I respectfully request that you direct the International Joint Commission (IJC) to perform an independent review of the Devil's Lake outlet in North Dakota.

The construction of the Devil's Lake outlet is a grave concern to the citizens of my state of Minnesota. Canadians and Minnesotans alike have a vested interest in this matter because of adverse environmental effects completion of the outlet could have on our habitats and wildlife.

Research surrounding the Devil's Lake outlet was conducted without regard to its impact on Canada, Minnesota, and the environment. Both biological and mineral contaminants could be exported from the lake and deposited in the Sheyenne and Red Rivers and eventually Lake Winnipeg. Referring this matter to the IJC will allow a thorough scientific review by an impartial, bi-national commission created specifically to settle such disputes.

The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 established the IJC to help resolve disputes relating to the use and quality of the boundary waters of Minnesota and Canada. Because the construction of the outlet has continued, despite requests from Governor Tim Pawlenty and Premier Gary Doer that the outlet undergo study, the IJC is the last and only means to an equitable resolution. By referring this project to the IJC, you will help ensure our nation's natural resources remain intact for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration to this urgent matter. Please feel free to contact me directly in my office at (202) 225-2271 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

John Kline
Member of Congress