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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 19, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Rice:

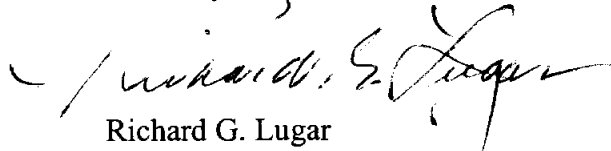
I am writing to urge you to request that the International Joint Commission (IJC) review a proposal to construct the Devil's Lake outlet in North Dakota.

As you know, the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 established the IJC to help prevent and resolve disputes relating to the use and quality of boundary waters and to advise the United States and Canada on related issues.

As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am concerned that allowing the outlet to proceed without a prior reference to the IJC would be in contravention of our treaty obligations and would undermine continued bilateral management of our border waters. Finally, as an environmentalist, the possibility that this project could potentially spread invasive species and pollutants to Canadian waters and could harm the environmental integrity of the Great Lakes and surrounding areas should be examined and avoided.

For these reasons, I ask that you give this matter close consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar
Chairman

RGL/cmck