

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

May 6, 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 ask for your assistance in ensuring that the proposal by the State of North Dakota to divert water from Devil's Lake is fully reviewed by the International Joint Commission (IJC) before the diversion is allowed to take place.

As you know, North Dakota is in the process of constructing the pipes and channels necessary to pump excess water from Devil's Lake into the Red River, Lake Winnipeg, and the Hudson Bay. The proposal has moved forward without an environmental impact study, and despite objections from the Canadian Government, the Great Lakes Commission, the environmental community, and the Assembly of First Nations.

Furthermore, since 1909 the U.S. and Canada have cooperated under the Boundary Waters Treaty. The Treaty, which established the bi-national IJC, set forth a framework to resolve and prevent water disputes between the two countries. Violation of the treaty would not only represent a serious affront to the Canadian Government; it would jeopardize other shared waters across the U.S.-Canada border.

I urge you to use the powers of your office to refer this proposal to the IJC to ensure that the proposal is seriously vetted by all interested parties before it is allowed to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress