



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

December 13, 2004

The Honorable Colin L. Powell  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

On April 28, 2004, I wrote you to convey my support of the Canadian Government's request to have the existing proposals surrounding the Devil's Lake outlet in North Dakota referred to the International Joint Commission (IJC) for an independent and credible review. Seven months later, affected parties remain interested in a decision on the referral request.

While I can appreciate a deliberative decision making process on such a divisive issue, construction on the outlet continues and it appears as though it could be operational as early as spring 2005. For that reason, it is my hope that you will be able to make a decision on this referral quickly, particularly since you will be leaving office soon and are familiar with the issues. In the event that a decision cannot be made quickly, I would request that you consider having construction halted until a decision can be made.

Permit me to reiterate Minnesota's preference that this matter be referred to the IJC because it is an impartial, bi-national commission created specifically for such disputes pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. Preserving the integrity of the treaty is critical for the state of Minnesota and referral to the IJC of this matter would seem to me a very prudent decision. Our long lasting relationship with our Canadian neighbors is worth a thorough scientific analysis.

Thank you for your consideration, Mr. Secretary. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor

Cc: Minnesota's Congressional Delegation