

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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May 17, 2005

The Honorable Condoleeza Rice
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Secretary Rice:

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

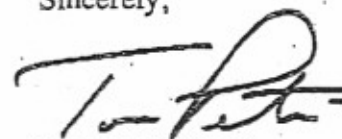
As you know, the IJC is an independent binational organization established by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. It serves an important role to help prevent and resolve disputes between the United States and Canada relating to the use and quality of boundary waters.

Recently, it has come to my attention that there is some serious concern that the proposed Devil's Lake outlet in North Dakota could harm the integrity of the Great Lakes and surrounding areas. Additionally, it is possible that the outlet could introduce more invasive species into the ecosystem. Consistent with its role, the IJC would provide an independent review of these potential risks.

At this point, the State of North Dakota has not committed to performing an environmental impact study (EIS) for the project. Without a proper EIS, we cannot possibly know the full impact this project will have on the Great Lakes and my home state of Wisconsin, which depend greatly on these waters for commerce and recreation. I respectfully urge you to refer the Devil's Lake outlet proposal to the IJC for further review to ensure that all affected parties are heard and this does not cause harm to our national treasure, the Great Lakes.

Please have your staff contact my assistant, Patrick Mullane, at (202) 225-2476 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress

TEP:prm