



**BOB TAFT**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF OHIO**

June 7, 2005

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

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to support a reference to the International Joint Commission (IJC) for an independent review of the Devils Lake outlet project, currently under construction by the state of North Dakota. The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 provides the principals and mechanisms to help prevent and resolve water quantity and water quality disputes along the boundary between Canada and the United States. The provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, the government of Canada, members of the United States Congress, the states of Minnesota and Missouri, the Great Lakes Commission, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, and several other organizations have raised serious water quality concerns—including the possible release of aquatic invasive species from the Devils Lake outlet—that must be addressed.

In the interest of the long tradition of the IJC, and of Ohio's exceptional relationship with our Canadian neighbors, I urge that a reference be made in this instance. It is imperative, however, that the IJC investigation be completed and recommendations made within one year. This will allow North Dakota to determine and enact the necessary steps to alleviate further flooding in the Devils Lake basin in an expeditious manner. The ongoing flooding in Devils Lake is not a matter to be taken lightly. Homes, businesses, agricultural properties, and infrastructure are potentially at stake. I hope and trust that the IJC's long tradition of international cooperation can be applied successfully in this instance.

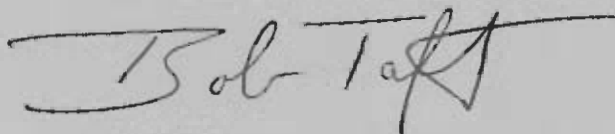
The eight Great Lakes states and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec are working diligently towards implementation of the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001, which will establish a new bi-national water management regime for the Great Lakes. The draft Annex implementation agreements acknowledge the roles of the United States and Canadian federal governments under the Boundary Waters Treaty which will continue unaffected by the Annex agreements. Bi-national management is essential to ensure sustainable uses of our Great Lakes water resources. In the same regard, cooperation between the United States and Canadian federal governments regarding the Devils Lake outlet project and water quality questions that

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remain unanswered is essential to the sustainable use of the transboundary waters of the Red River.

Please contact Kate Bartter, my Chief Policy Advisor at 614-995-2281 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Taft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Bob Taft  
Governor of Ohio

BT/mh

c: Kate Bartter, Chief Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor  
Sam Speck, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Senator George Voinovich  
Senator Mike DeWine  
Anne Charles, Consul General, Canadian Consulate General, Chicago  
Rocco Delvecchio, Consul General, Canadian Consulate General, Detroit  
Governor Tim Pawlenty  
Governor John Hoeven