

The International Joint Commission has characterized the possibility of inter-basin transfers of foreign fish species, diseases and parasites as a concern "over-riding everything else", and recommended that the Garrison Project not go ahead until this danger has been eliminated. The biota transfer problem remains a very real concern. Canada continues to believe that the only way to deal with this problem would be for the project to be further modified to eliminate all inter-basin transfers of water.

The Canadian Government has been appreciative of the United States Government assurances regarding the Garrison Diversion. It has also welcomed the recognition Congress has previously given to Canadian concerns and United States obligations. The Canadian Government continues to attach great importance to co-operation between our two countries in resolving this serious bilateral problem and requests that no action, including the provision of new funding, be taken until the outstanding bilateral issues are resolved.

The Canadian Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.