

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION
OTTAWA, CANADA

May 2nd, 1935

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Several years ago a number of public-spirited Americans organized the Quetico-Superior Council, its purpose being to enlist the interest of individuals and governments in the preservation of a remarkable region of rugged natural beauty on both sides of the international boundary west of Lake Superior.

Part of this region on the Canadian side consists of an Ontario reservation known as Quetico Park, and part of the area on the United States side is a federal reserve known as Superior National Forest. It is proposed that these should be extended to the shores of Lake Superior, and that the United States Government should also enlarge the Superior National Forest by re-purchasing certain tracts of land now owned by the State of Minnesota or in private hands. The United States Government has already agreed to do this and has set apart a sum of money ample for the purpose. President Roosevelt has also created a special Committee to carry it into effect. The lands proposed to be added to Quetico Park being Provincial lands, no expenditure would be necessary on the Canadian side.

A further proposal of the Quetico-Superior Council contemplates action by the Governments of Canada and Ontario on the one side and of the United States on the other to combine Quetico Park and Superior National Forest into an International Park, as was done several years ago in the case of the Glacier-Waterton International Park in the Rocky Mountains. That was done by concurrent legislation in the United States Congress and the Canadian Parliament. In the present case it is believed that a more appropriate and practicable plan would be to create the International Park by a treaty between Canada and the United States and an agreement between Canada and Ontario. As in the case of the Rocky Mountain Park, national sovereignty and administration would not be affected in any way, the purpose being rather to bring about a harmonious policy in the preservation of this international region for the benefit of the people of both countries, and at the same time to strengthen the ties of friendship between the United States and Canada. The United States section of the International Park would be administered by the appropriate federal department of that government, and the Canadian section by the government of Ontario.

It has always been the intention that the Quetico-Superior Council should be an international body, made up of representative persons in both countries interested in bringing about the objects outlined above. The American members, having made satisfactory progress on their own side, are now desirous that the original plan should be carried out by the addition to the Council of a number of representative Canadians. They feel that any action in the Dominion, and any representations to the Canadian and Ontario Governments, would be both more appropriate and more effective if made by the Canadian members of an international organization. It should be emphasized that no obligations of any kind are involved in membership in the Quetico-Superior Council other than support of the idea of the proposed International Park.