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State of Minnesota

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **353**

January 29, 2009

Authored by Olin

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment Policy and Oversight

March 23, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass and Read Second Time

May 18, 2009

Pursuant to Rule 4.20, re-referred to the Committee on Environment Policy and Oversight

March 18, 2010

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass

Read Second Time

- 1.1 A resolution
- 1.2 relating to Lake of the Woods.
- 1.3 WHEREAS, the Lake of the Woods is the largest lake in Minnesota; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the health and sustainability of Lake of the Woods is of vital importance to the
- 1.5 social and economic sustainable development of Minnesota; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has placed Lake of the Woods on
- 1.7 Minnesota's section 303(d) list of impaired waters approved by the Environmental Protection
- 1.8 Agency in 2008; and
- 1.9 WHEREAS, Lake of the Woods is a boundary water as defined in the Boundary Waters
- 1.10 Treaty of 1909; and
- 1.11 WHEREAS, the 1925 Lake of the Woods Convention and Protocol assigned certain
- 1.12 water level related responsibilities to the International Joint Commission; the International Joint
- 1.13 Commission at present has no direct responsibilities for Lake of the Woods water quality, but
- 1.14 since 1965, has monitored and reported to governments on Rainy River water quality, a major
- 1.15 tributary and source of water to Lake of the Woods; and
- 1.16 WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission has brought concerns over potentially
- 1.17 deteriorating water quality in the Lake of the Woods to the attention of the governments of
- 1.18 the United States and Canada, and has recommended investigation by the International Joint
- 1.19 Commission in cooperation with appropriate agencies, including those from Minnesota, Ontario,
- 1.20 and Manitoba; and

2.1 WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission could help coordinate scientific
2.2 investigation, monitoring and recommend actions across the multiple jurisdictions around the
2.3 Lake of the Woods to ensure timely and effective investigation; NOW, THEREFORE,

2.4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it supports the Lake of
2.5 the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation in its request that the question of Lake of the Woods
2.6 water quality be referred to the International Joint Commission for examination and report.

2.7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is
2.8 directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the Governor of Minnesota, the
2.9 President of the United States, the United States Department of State, and Minnesota's Senators
2.10 and Representatives in Congress.