

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 21, 2011

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

We write you today to ask for your help in advancing H.R. 850 to the full House of Representatives. If passed and signed into law, this bipartisan legislation would facilitate a new bridge connecting Oak Park Heights, Minnesota and St. Joseph Township, Wisconsin in the Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River. The House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on H.R. 850 in May and the bill was favorably reported out of committee on a bipartisan vote in October. It enjoys wide support at the federal, state, and local levels.

A new river crossing has been needed for decades to replace a lift bridge constructed in 1931. Unfortunately, the project continues to be stalled due to litigation. Meanwhile, the current crossing leads to excessive congestion, endangers public safety, deters tourism, and raises the cost of doing business for local communities. It is now, more important than ever, to see the St. Croix River Crossing Project completed.

Due to the pressing budgetary needs of our states, funding for the project may be imperiled if action is not taken soon. Congress must act soon to ensure that the state funding is not reallocated to other projects. We hope that you can provide clarity on the timing of this important legislation so that our states can prepare appropriately.

This legislation, H.R. 850, and its Senate companion, S. 1134, have overwhelming support. At this time, both bills have passed their respective committees of jurisdiction and await full congressional action. It is our hope that we can schedule floor consideration of a full vote on H.R. 850 on the House floor as soon as possible.

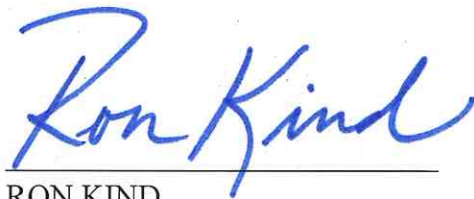
We thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



MICHELE BACHMANN

Member of Congress

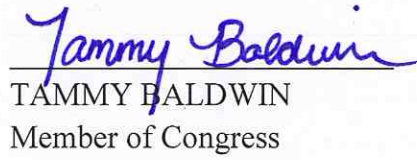


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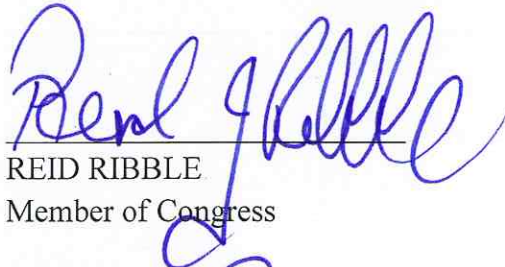
Member of Congress



SEAN DUFFY  
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress



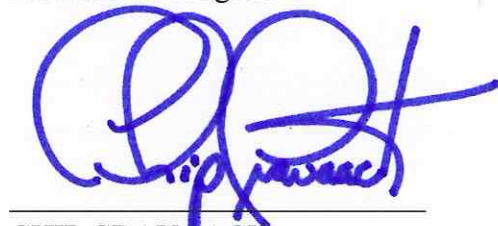
REID RIBBLE  
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THOMAS PETRI  
Member of Congress



CHIP CRAVAACK  
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