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**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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**Support S. 1134,**  
**A Bipartisan Bridge Proposal to End Bureaucratic Hurdles**

February 29, 2012

Dear Colleague:

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support Senate bill 1134 being considered today by the House. This bipartisan bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent and ensures federal law does not prevent the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota from replacing an old, unsafe bridge. The bipartisan support for this bill includes House Members, Senators and the governors of the two states.

Last year, a similar House bill was favorably approved by the Natural Resources Committee.

For over two decades, Wisconsin and Minnesota have been working on a plan to replace this bridge, which is over 80 years old, rapidly deteriorating, unsafe, and unable to accommodate growing traffic levels. This two-state project has been delayed by lawsuit after lawsuit and the interference of federal bureaucrats.

These nuisance lawsuits and bureaucrat attacks are all based on the fact that the bridge spans the St. Croix River, which was listed in 1972 under the federal Wild and Scenic River Act.

This bipartisan bill simply says: this "wild and scenic" label on the river under federal law cannot stop these states from building a safe, new bridge. It's as simple as that.

The people of Minnesota and Wisconsin have been waiting for decades to complete this project, which could create thousands of construction jobs. The Senate last month passed this bill by unanimous consent and now it's time for the House to also approve this bill.

I strongly urge you to support S. 1134. Please contact Casey Hammond ([casey.hammond@mail.house.gov](mailto:casey.hammond@mail.house.gov)) with the Natural Resources Committee at 6-7736 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s  
Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee