

2013 — 07 St. Croix Mega Bridge

In 1992 and 1997, the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America opposed the massive bridge proposed to cross the St. Croix National Wild and Scenic River at Oak Park Heights, Minnesota. The reasons for this opposition remain and have only been intensified by enactment of new Federal Law (MAP-21) requiring performance based project selection.

The project as now proposed does not comply with newly enacted federal law requiring performance based project planning, selection and construction of critical infrastructure.

Projects must now demonstrate best value investment determined from state-wide analyses of existing infrastructure condition. Projects must also demonstrate significant measurable positive impacts and maintain existing highway assets in a state of good repair before system expansion. The environmental and fiscal consequences to the State of Minnesota of creating an even larger unsustainable highway network while simultaneously not maintaining our existing highway assets have not been shared with the public so that the public can provide informed comment.

Therefore be it resolved that the Minnesota Division, Izaak Walton League of America in convention, April 28, 2013 reaffirms its opposition to the massive bridge currently proposed to cross the St. Croix National Wild and Scenic River at Oak Park Heights, MN.

Be it further resolved that the Minnesota Division also supports Minnesota and National policies which preserve existing highway assets in a state of good repair before highway system expansion.

*Submitted by the Jaques Chapter
John Siekmeier, President*