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Dear Al,

Webinige Giizis 2021 – Throwing it Away Moon

Here it is Groundhog Day. Again. Just like in that movie. Appropriate, isn't it, since I feel like I have to keep repeating myself and my actions over and over again about Line 3.

Sorry I'm a little later than usual on getting this off to you, Al, but I've been busy standing alongside and sometimes in front of Enbridge-authorized earth-moving equipment that's currently ravaging land and threatening rivers and our waters in northern Minnesota. It's not far from where I live. Hard to believe that it's been a year, or a bit more since you heard from me. Do you miss me?

It's hard not to miss you, your handiwork is everywhere in Minnesota. You should really be proud of yourself. You got all the permits for Line 3 – the Pandemic Pipeline. It's amazing! After all, adding 190 million metric tons of tar sands carbon to the environment annually is really something which should not be permitted, but by golly you got it!

And those water permits! Astonishing. Really!? Permits that will allocate 630 million gallons of water for you to mess around with, plus 69 river crossings, and even more incredible, your lack of any plan to address an oil spill at Lake Superior. I've got to hand it to you -- and the public officials in Minnesota from the governor on down to the PUC and his agencies: Those permits should not have been issued, and now we have to sue y'all to overturn them.

So you got your permits. Well, I guess that's why they pay you the big bucks. Last year your salary was \$18 million. WOW. That's \$8 million more than you paid the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe to cross their reservation for 50 years with the Alberta Clipper Pipeline. I guess that's one take on what white privilege looks like, eh?

In any case, our relationship has definitely worsened. Our relationship now has way too much violence and police in it. I just want to point this out, as it's well known that I would like a divorce. Our relationship is not a good one, hasn't been for a while, and now it is worse. Here's my picture with a niece from a

couple of weeks ago – next to big ugly machines and cops everywhere, as you tear through my country like a villain. But we are still here.

### **Big Lies and Big Payoffs**

Your expensive Line 3 Public Relations and marketing campaign are as amazing as your salary. There's some cunning wisdom to repeating a lie over and over, in case some of those listening will forget that it's a lie. For starters, you've sold the idea that Line 3 is a replacement pipeline. It is not – it's a whole new pipeline because the Leech Lake band of Indians, whom you paid that pittance in 2010 for the Alberta Clipper, decided that 60 years of Enbridge pipes and liability, was enough and they would not approve your easement in the old Line 3 corridor. So, you have to make a new pipeline route, through the heartland of our wild rice and 1855 territory. This is not a replacement, Al. come on, you know that!

Secondly, you have successfully made the Deep North deeper with your brazen militarization of our 12 northland counties along the pipeline route. You sure put a lot of police and security guys around, and that's worrisome. But I can't give you all the credit: the PUC's Line 3 Route Permit required your company to create a "Public Safety Escrow Account" that would pick up the tab for extra state and local law enforcement public safety costs around Line 3's construction. Pretty generous of you, Al! The Beltrami County Sheriff has already asked for around \$200,000 for Line 3-related expenses going back to 2016 to the present. Other counties will surely follow suit. Stuff like equipment purchases, staff training, responses to Line



3 water protectors, you know the kind of “armed camp” tools, training and mentality we saw at Standing Rock.

Then there's your most recent full-page advertisement in the *Star Tribune*, where you talk about how you are working with Native people. That's great; nice to be a perpetrator. That's to say, that you've got enough money to force some friendships, which are convenient for you, and when you get your way, the tribes will be left with some pipe and some oil. In truth, Indians don't really like Enbridge. We don't actually like dirty oil companies. What we know is that colonialism has made a mess of this world, and our economies. So, this years' per capita payments at the Fond du Lac reservation appear to be sponsored by Enbridge.

What if the tribes had enough wealth to support our tribal members without big oil payoffs? The reality is that we need our wild rice, our fish and our ducks more than we need your money. Those are forever. See, the thing is that money does not buy you love. That's why the Red Lake and White Earth bands of Ojibwe are suing you to get Line 3 out of our territories.

### **What's the Rush?**

Since you got the green light, you and yours are busting ground as fast as you can with those 4,200 workers, many not from here but coming here during a global pandemic to work on the Pandemic Pipeline. We know that you are rushing through our lands because the courts could close you down. Rapid construction, that's how people die -- like Jorge Villafuerte, a father of nine, who was run over by a large forklift at a construction yard at the Hill City Enbridge site just days after you started your build. I'm sure you got an internal memo and saw the media coverage. Hazards of the job for sure. But rushing is dangerous. You all stopped work for four hours for safety review and training, and poor Jorge was hauled away. At least TransCanada shut down for several weeks following a pipeliner death. But I get it, you're in a hurry here in Minnesota, Al. But your haste doesn't make any of us on either side of Line 3 really feel safe.

You're trying to tear through our land before the courts stop you. That's quite obvious. The Minnesota Department of Commerce joined us in suing to overturn all those permits which were issued on the grounds that you had no need, no plan for a big spill, and lacked a thoroughly adequate environmental impact statement (EIS). But the handwriting is on the wall for pipelines, especially those filled with tars sands oil, Al. Last year, the Constitution pipeline and the Atlantic Coast pipeline were both cancelled, and that was in the Trump administration. Now Biden's knocked down Keystone. That's gotta keep you up at night, I'd guess.

### **DAPL, Keystone, Line 3 – The Three Black Snakes of the Fading Big Oil Era**

You probably also read how the Dakota Access Pipeline Project lacked an adequate federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As you know, July 6, 2020, U.S. District Judge James A. Boasberg ordered the operator of the Dakota Access Pipeline ("DAPL"), Dakota Access, LLC ("Dakota Access"), to shut down DAPL, which has been in operation since 2017 and has the capacity to transport 570,000 barrels of Bakken crude each day. That judge also ruled to remove all oil from DAPL until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") completes an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") (the "Shutdown Order"). That is of course, about one third your pipeline. So it must be a bit worrisome.

Jan Hasselman, an Earthjustice attorney who represents the Standing Rock Sioux in the DAPL suit said, "This is a major crude oil pipeline crossing unceded tribal land and affecting the water supply for millions of people." Wow, that sounds a lot like Line 3! It's a good thing we have those same attorneys for our federal battle with Corps' 404 permit.

I bet that Keystone cancellation was a bit jarring for you. Still, that benefits you all in some ways because now you might have more oil to move, oil that won't be moved in the Keystone pipe. The problem is that no one really wants tar sands oil any more -- that's why you need all the police to get Line 3 built so fast because users and investors are ridding themselves of their oil habit and you don't want to wait around in case your supporters finally come to their senses. Even addicts have limits.

Did you see this report, Al?

"No one is going to announce a new pipeline while Joe Biden is the president," said Katie Bays, managing director at FiscalNote Markets, which tracks policy issues for investors. In 2020, we also saw the cancellation of the Teck Mine, which would have produced the tar sands oil into the next century, bye bye. You really did not have the best year in 2020, like everybody else, I guess. Still you had 800 people take early retirement, and lost over a billion in the first quarter! But you're still hanging out with a bunch of tar sands companies who are losing their shirts, and that's gotta dim your enthusiasm. So there you are Al. You are the last one standing. Really, something. That's to say, it's the end of the party, and you are still holding and toasting a glass of tar sands oil.

Let's face it, DAPL, Keystone and Line 3 are the three black snakes of the fading big oil era. Plus, let's be honest, putting in pipelines is so last century. It's time to clean up old messes and make some new truly needed infrastructure for the future -- like pipes for people, and renewable capacity. I don't know if you remember when I wrote a couple years ago that the U.S. has a D in infrastructure, according to the American Society of Structural Engineers.

You could actually help with this: After all, it will cost about \$2 billion to take out the old Line 3, and that's all good jobs for Minnesotans. We know you don't really need this pipeline but just want to shove it down our throats. How unevolved, frankly. The COVID19 Pandemic teaches us much, and it has changed our world. We have an opportunity now to do good for the future generations. You at Enbridge could do the right thing, and I'm not talking about building playgrounds and parks in our communities. I am talking about paying for removal, and of course, making sure that pipe liners have jobs putting in water and sewer pipes. Those pipes we want.

### **In Michigan, Are You Above the Law?**

Looking back over the last year, Al, we were all sort of taken aback with your bold rebuff of Governor Whitmer's cancellation of easements for Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. **Not nice.** So, a spill there would be a big problem, and you've already got a bad history in Michigan with spills. Maybe you don't remember Kalamazoo but we do. We all took good heart when Michigan's Governor Whitmer on November 13 ordered the Straits portion of Enbridge's Line 5 to shut down by May. She cited the Public Trust Doctrine revoking and terminating the 1953 easement that allows your company to operate Line 5 in the Straits.

"Enbridge has imposed on the people of Michigan an unacceptable risk of a catastrophic oil spill in the Great Lakes that could devastate our economy and way of life," Whitmer said in a statement at the time. "That's why we're taking action now."

Your response was, childish: You filed a [federal lawsuit](#) seeking a ruling that federal pipeline safety regulations trump Michigan's authority over Line 5. The company has asked the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan to dismiss Michigan's case. But the response from Michigan was pretty clear: "Enbridge cannot unilaterally decide when laws and binding agreements apply and when they do not," Attorney General Eichinger said. "We stand behind our efforts to protect the Great Lakes, and we stand behind the substance of the November 2020 [revocation and termination](#) of the Easement." I see, now as of this writing, you got your way with Michigan. Again, I have to hand it to you Al, you know how to milk the system.

### **What Team Do You Want to Be On?**

So which team are you on Al? The Team for the future, or not? Keep in mind, there's no Plan B here for the planet as it heats up from greenhouse gases. Our plan is a Just Transition and you could be on that team. It's how we all survive sans conflict, especially during coronavirus. The time of corporate mega

projects at the expense of the world is over. That's why we have a pandemic silly -- too much messing with Mother Nature. And, to be honest, I want to give you some advice -- don't pick a fight with Mother Earth. You won't win.

What's the just transition look like -- local food, energy, a lot less waste, and a lot less fossil fuels, and it starts with No Line 3. That's the beginning. You're the biggest energy consumer in Minnesota, that has to stop. I'm sure you read the energy business press. But ICYMI, here's a closing thought from *Bloomberg News* on January 21:

"And while oil stumbled, the renewable energy sector has been on a roll. Investors have fled the fossil fuel sector in droves and flocked to companies in solar, wind and other alternative technologies. That trend may determine the kind of big infrastructure projects that get built in years to come..."



The time for blood oil and pipelines is over. Join the just transition team AI, it's the next economy. The Home team in Minnesota, the Water Protectors, are here, and we are not going anywhere. This time is a portal between two worlds and we are all in it together AI, you and I. Let's do better. And Happy New Year.

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Winona LaDuke