PROPOSED ENBRIDGE PIPELINE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Line 5 is a pipeline owned by Enbridge that has transported crude oil and natural gas liquids from Superior, WI eastward across Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to a submerged pipeline that crosses the Straits of Mackinac just west of the Mackinac Bridge and continuing south, crossing under the Indian River in Cheboygan County and ending in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 was constructed prior to Public Act 247 of 1955 Great Lakes Submerged Land Act (as amended) which purpose is to protect the waters of the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes bottomlands by requiring a permit when constructing structures in the Great Lakes within Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard Commandant testified before Congress in 2015 that the Coast Guard would be unable to respond effectively to an open water spill in the heart of the Great Lakes, particularly during the winter months when a recovery plan is considered inadequate due to ice conditions; and,

WHEREAS, there is a potential risk that the aging Line 5 pipeline could develop a leak or rupture which would cause devastating environmental damage to the Great Lakes as well as tremendous economic loss; and,

WHEREAS, the Enbridge owned Kalamazoo Line 6b breach resulted in one of the worst oil spills in U.S. history resulting in a 5 year clean-up costing nearly $1 billion; and,

WHEREAS, Emmet County is at a critical point for any potential rupture or leakage of the submerged pipeline; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has the legal authority to manage the bottomlands and waters of the Great Lakes within Michigan with respect to prevention of pollution and protection of the natural resources of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Emmet County Board of Commissioners request that Governor Snyder utilize the State of Michigan’s authority by acting immediately to restrict Line 5; 1. to its original design capacity of 300,000 barrels per day (down from the current 540,000 barrels per day), and 2. to a cargo of only non-oil products, such as liquid petroleum gas and propane until such time as an independent risk analysis and an independent analysis of alternatives to the existing straits pipelines and any additional information requested by the Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force is completed and analyzed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Emmet County Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette, State Senator Wayne Schmidt, State Representative Lee Chatfield and US Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow.

Contacts:
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Anabel Dwyer 231-436-5654

Dated: ____________________________________________
Chairman, Emmet County Board of Commissioners
CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN) ss
COUNTY OF EMMET )

I, Juli Wallin, Clerk of Emmet County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the Emmet County Board of Commissioners on the 17th day of December, 2015, by the following Roll Call vote:

Yeas: 5
Nayes: 0
Absent: 3

I further certify that this Resolution is a true, correct and complete transcript of the said Resolution appearing on file and of record in the County's offices. In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the County of Emmet, this 18th day of December, 2015.

Juli Wallin, Emmet County Clerk