



The City of Traverse City

Communication to the City Commission

FOR THE REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2016

FROM: *msc* MARTY COLBURN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO STOP THE TRANSPORTATION
OF OIL UNDER THE GREAT LAKES

Attached is a resolution sponsored by Mayor Carruthers, which supports stopping the transportation of oil and natural gas liquids under the Great Lakes. Various communities in Michigan have adopted similar resolutions. The Great Lakes constitute 21% of the worlds, and 95% of North America's fresh surface water for drinking and everyday usage, therefore it is important to protect them.

Also attached is a letter addressed to Governor Snyder which will accompany the resolution if adopted.

The following motion would adopt the resolution:

that the Resolution of Support to Stop the Transportation of Oil Under the Great Lakes, be adopted.

MC/kez

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copy: Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director of FLOW, liz@flowforwater.org



**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO STOP THE
TRANSPORTATION OF OIL UNDER THE GREAT LAKES**

- Because, Line 5 is a set of twin, 62-year-old pipelines owned by Enbridge that carry light crude oil and natural gas under the Straits of Mackinac; and
- Because, the currents in the Straits of Mackinac at peak volumetric transport can be more than 10 times greater than the flow of Niagara Falls and switch bi-directionally from east to west every few days, and according to a 2014 University of Michigan study are the “worst possible place” for an oil spill in the Great Lakes; and
- Because, the Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world’s fresh, available, surface water and are a drinking water source for over 25 million people; and
- Because, one out of every five jobs in Michigan is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes; and
- Because, tourism is one of Michigan’s largest income industries bringing in billions of travelers dollars spent each year; and
- Because, agriculture, fisheries, shipping and industry depend on the health of the Great Lakes; and
- Because, in 2009, the Great Lakes were linked to over 1.5 million jobs, with Michigan accounting for 35 percent of those jobs; and
- Because, Enbridge has a shaky track record that includes 1,244 reportable spills, leaks and releases from 1996 to 2013; and
- Because, Enbridge was in violation for their spacing requirements of its 1953 easement for Line 5 in 2014 and were responsible for a pinhole leak in a section of the pipeline north of the Straits in December 2014; and
- Because, Enbridge was responsible for one of the worst and most expensive oil spills in U.S. history when Line 6b ruptured near Kalamazoo in 2010 allowing almost 1 million gallons of tar sands oil to leak for 17 hours before shutting down the line; and
- Because, corrosion is the number one reason that pipelines fail; and
- Because, Line 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act was adopted so it didn’t have to obtain a permit and ensure that the pipeline wouldn’t pose a threat to the waters or the public’s use of the waters’ and

- Because, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has stated (in regards to Line 5) that the “pipeline wouldn’t be built today” and that “the pipeline’s days are numbered;” and
- Because, the Coast Guard Commandant testified before congress in 2015 that the Coast Guard would be unable to respond effectively to an open water oil spill in the heart of the Great Lakes; and
- Because, there is no plan for how to recover oil if there was a leak during the winter when the lakes are covered with ice; and
- Because, as Michiganders we have a responsibility to be wise stewards of the waters of our state for generations to come; and
- Because, protection of Michigan’s water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restore degraded environments after the fact; therefore, be it
- Resolved,** that on the 1st day of February, 2016, the City of Traverse City supports stopping the transportation of oil under the Great Lakes; and be it further
- Resolved,** that the City of Traverse City supports shutting down Line 5 and the flow of oil under the Great Lakes; and be it further
- Resolved,** that the City of Traverse City supports H.R. 182 and C.R. 15 introduced by State Representative Sarah Roberts and Jeff Irwin calling on Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette to shut down Line 5; and be it further
- Resolved,** that the City of Traverse City will send a letter to Governor Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette, our State Representatives, and State Senators calling on them to take swift action to shut down Line 5.

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Traverse City City Commission at its Regular Meeting of February 1, 2016 in the Commission Chambers, Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan.

Benjamin C. Marentette, MMC
City Clerk



February 2, 2016

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor of Michigan
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

As the Mayor of Traverse City, I am writing to express deep concern about Enbridge's 62-year-old Line 5 pipeline located in the Straits of Mackinac. Representing the residents in Traverse City, I urge you, as the primary steward, to take immediate action to shut down the pipeline and stop the transportation of oil under the Great Lakes.

Following the Enbridge 6B pipeline disaster in the Kalamazoo River in 2010, and the pinhole leak of Line 5 in 2014, the public trust regarding the safety of these pipelines is a critical concern. The waters of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are critical to the region and the state's economy and ecology.

Lake Michigan's clean water and magnificent shores are the backbone of Traverse City, supporting our local way of life and attracting visitors from all over the world. Tourism generates the majority of our area's economic activity and is responsible for maintaining thousands of jobs each year. Allowing the integrity of these waters to fall by the wayside would thus have dire consequences for the economy for the Traverse City area and subsequently the State of Michigan.

As I am sure you are aware, the currents in the Straits of Mackinac at peak volumetric transport can be more than ten times greater than the flow of Niagara Falls and switch bi-directionally from east to west every few days, which according to a 2014 University of Michigan study concludes to be the "worst possible place" for an oil spill in the Great Lakes.

As the Governor of the State of Michigan, you have the perpetual duty and express authority to ensure the safety and well-being of our Great Lakes present and future. This is why I, along with representing the residents of Traverse City, support H.R. 182 and C.R. 15, and urge you to help create a legacy we can all be proud of.

Thank you for your commitment to the protection of this great state.

Most sincerely,

James Carruthers, Mayor

copy: Bill Schuette, Attorney General
Dan Benishek, State Representative
Wayne Schmidt, State Senator
Traverse City City Commission
Martin A. Colburn, City Manager
Benjamin Marentette, City Clerk