RESOLUTION 104-2016
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF SHUTTING DOWN LINE 5

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, 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 possibly place” for an oil spill in the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world’s fresh, available, surface water and are a drinking water sources for over 325 million people; and

WHEREAS, one out of every five jobs in Michigan is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, tourism is one of the Michigan’s largest income industries bringing in billions of travelers dollars spent each year; and

WHEREAS, agriculture, fisheries, shipping and industry depend on the health of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 in Great Lakes were linked to over 1.5 million jobs, with Michigan accounting for 35 percent of those jobs; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has a shaky track record that includes 1,244 reportable spills, leaks and releases from 1996 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, 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
WHEREAS, corrosion is the number one reason that pipelines fail; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, Michigan’s 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

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard Commission 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

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, as Michiganders we have a responsibility to be wise stewards of the waters of our state for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, protection of Michigan’s water supplies and resources is better accomplished by prevention of containment and environmental degradation, rather than attempting to clean up contamination and restore degraded environments after the fact;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the 5th day of April 2016, the City of East Jordan supports stopping the transportation of oil under the Great Lakes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of East Jordan supports shutting down Line 5 and the flow of oil under the Great Lakes.

AYES: BREAKEY, BOYER, TIMMONS, PENZIEN

NAYS: PENZIEN

ABSTAIN: NONE

ABSENT: DOEBEL
Resolution declared adopted on April 5, 2016.

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of resolution 104-2016 adopted by the City Commission of the City of East Jordan County of Charlevoix, Michigan at a regular meeting held on April 5, 2016.

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Cheltzi Wilson, Clerk