

Resolution ____

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 possible 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 source for over 35 million people; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes contain over 95 percent of the North American continent's fresh, available, surface water and drinking water; 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 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 the Great Lakes were linked to over 1.5 million jobs, with Michigan accounting for 35 percent of those jobs, and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has a known track record that includes 1,244 reportable spills, leaks and releases from 1996 to 2013, including a very large spill in the Upper Peninsula at Crystal Falls, as well as the largest oil spill of any modern North American pipeline company ever recorded as explained next; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge was responsible for what Governor Snyder's Line 5 Advisory board labels "the worst oil pipeline land spill in U.S. history", when line 6b ruptured near Marshall, Michigan caused by a failure to fix known flagged cracks, and a response time which just 2 weeks prior to the spill, the company in testimony responding to an inquiry on one of the other 1,244 previous leaks, promised a response time of "minutes", which instead took 17 hours, was uncovered by locals at the scene, and released approximately one million gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River ; and

WHEREAS, the SHIPPING of the GREAT LAKES would be INTERRUPTED for an unforeseeable length of time, in the event of a Kalamazoo size spill or larger, as 23 million gallons of oil flows beneath the Straits of Mackinac daily, and the pipeline originally designed to lay along the ground, has to have had supports delicately and ad hoc installed, where landslides have visibly occurred, with potential for a catastrophic support collapse along the 5 miles which cross a vast crevice with unknown stability, with any span beyond a certain length leading to a tension snap, which would instantly release vast quantities of oil; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge admits* it cannot guarantee the safety of the pipeline across the Straits of Mackinac, with all the implications of this acknowledgement to each of the above points, risking our fresh waters, our commerce, our tourism, our fisheries, and our sense of identity and enjoyment in these Great Lakes, and our dependence upon them for our drinking water; and

WHEREAS Line 5 is Enbridge's oldest pipeline by a decade over Line 6b which ruptured, yet claims they became aware only with that disaster of its flaws, yet asks us to trust a company which learns of its flaws only AFTER a major disaster claiming safety until ruptures prove otherwise; 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 would NOT 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 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

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 or under storm conditions as well; and

WHEREAS, the placement of a twin set of oil pipelines across such essential waters as the Great Lakes with the acknowledged possibility of a spill* as stated by Enbridge, would devastate the Great Lakes as studies show just 10% to 30% of the oil would be recovered, as in the Gulf of Mexico, oils would be embedded in the sands for generations to come, the Great Lakes unlike the Gulf of Mexico, are a mere 200 feet deep rather than 2 miles, the devastation would be infinitely greater, far more permanent, and for people of the Upper Peninsula an UNACCEPTABLE RISK to our lives and livelihoods for generations.

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

WHEREAS, the Line 6b rupture in 2011 into the Kalamazoo river, led to the shutdown of line 6b, and its replacement by a NEW line now twice the capacity of the old, which bypasses the Straits of Mackinac, Lake Michigan and Northern Lake Huron, can carry ALL of Line 5 OIL with excess capacity to spare ; and

WHEREAS, 97 % of the oils which flow beneath the Straits of Mackinac are from Canada and to Canada by Enbridge's own records, with natural gas being dispensed in the Upper Peninsula prior to reaching the Straits of Mackinac and THUS not being affected; and pick up points for OILS from Michigan exist in the Lower Peninsula, AFTER the lines have crossed the Straits, meaning that the 97 % of oils flowing beneath the Straits to Canada have existing alternatives, as well as a FUTURE alternative, around the north side of Lakes Superior & Huron, across Canadian LANDS, such that Canadian oils meant for Canadian markets, pose the appropriate risk and containment of that risk, to Canadian lands, and not to OUR MICHIGAN WATERS; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, is a community wholly dependent upon clean and pure waters for recreation and drinking, and wholly dependent upon tourism which depends upon those clean waters and depends as well for our industrial base upon the safe passage of shipping vessels across clean and clear Great Lakes Shipping Channels, as our St. Mary's River Channel forms the northern transition point between the Great Lake Superior and the interconnected waterways of the lower Great Lakes Michigan & Huron, upon whose commerce and trade we are totally dependent -

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on the ____ day of ____ 2016, the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, puts forth a resolution in support of; 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, joining nearly 50 communities and counties, and counting, including Traverse City, Mackinac Island, Bois Blanc Island, Les Cheneaux Clark Twp, and most recently Boyne City and now Sault Ste. Marie, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Sault Ste. Marie supports the complete removal of the Pipeline #5 that lies beneath the Mackinac Bridge forever. being the leading City of the Upper Peninsula, and the first community in Michigan to do so, and will send a letter to Governor Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette, our State Representative, State Senator and U.S. Senators calling on them to take swift action to shut down and remove Line 5, acting in full support of State Senate Bill S.B. 880 presented by Republican State Senator Rick Jones of Grand Ledge, on April 12, of this year, Senator Jones a champion of water quality and conservative care for our natural resources heritage. Our community urges other state leaders to step forward also, to defend what is essential to our state's future now before a rupture occurs, which would devastate our City, Region & State.

Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, County of Chippewa, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held May 16, 2016 on and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

ROBIN R. TROYER, CITY CLERK