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# City of Detroit CITY COUNCIL

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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council  
FROM: David Whitaker, Director  
Legislative Policy Division (LPD) Staff  
DATE: June 9, 2016  
RE: Resolution to Shut Down Enbridge "Line 5"

On June 7, 2016, Council Member Sheffield requested that LPD draft a resolution calling for the immediate shut down of Enbridge's Line 5 oil and natural gas pipelines beneath the Straits of Mackinac. The requested resolution is attached.

If Council has any other questions or concerns regarding this subject, LPD will be happy to provide further research and analysis upon request.



**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE SHUT DOWN  
OF ENBRIDGE PIPELINE 5 RUNNING THROUGH THE GREAT LAKES**

**By Council Member Mary Sheffield**

WHEREAS, Enbridge Corporation's "Line 5" is a pair of 62-year old pipelines that carry oil and natural gas through the Great Lakes under the Straits of Mackinac; and

WHEREAS, The Straits of Mackinac in particular are characterized by very strong bi-directional east and west currents, up to more than 10 times greater than the flow of Niagara Falls, creating very dangerous forces that could threaten the integrity of Line 5 and the ability of emergency responders to contain the oil in the event of a spill; and

WHEREAS, A 2014 University of Michigan study states that the Straits of Mackinac 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 available fresh surface water, and provide drinking water for more than 35 million people; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge Corporation has a poor environmental record, including more than 1200 reportable leaks, spills and releases between 1996 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge was responsible for one of the worst oil spills in United States history in 2010 when their Line 6b ruptured near Kalamazoo, leaking almost 1 million gallons of highly corrosive and polluting tar sands oil for 17 hours before shutting down the line; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge was found to be in violation of safety-critical spacing requirements for supporting their pipeline in 2014 under the 1953 easement for Line 5, resulting in a leak in a section of the pipeline north of the Straits of Mackinac in December 2014; and

WHEREAS, Corrosion is the most frequent reason for such pipeline failure; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act was passed, so it was not required to have a permit to ensure the safety of Great Lakes water quality and public health; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's Attorney General has stated that Line 5 "wouldn't be built today", and that "the pipeline's days are numbered"; and

WHEREAS, The United States Coast Guard Commandant testified before Congress in 2015 that the Coast Guard would not be able to respond effectively to an open water oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac; and

WHEREAS, There is no plan for how to recover oil if such a spill were to occur during the winter when the lakes are covered by ice; and



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WHEREAS, The Great Lakes and their water supplies for the people of Michigan and others are best protected by preventing pollution and environmental degradation, including possible oil spills, than by relying on after-the-fact, unproven attempts to clean up contamination and restore water quality after a spill occurs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Detroit City Council supports shutting down Line 5 forthwith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Detroit City Council supports HR 182 and CR 15, introduced by State Representatives Sarah Roberts and Jeff Irwin, calling on Governor Snyder and Attorney General Schuette to shut down Line 5; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to Governor Snyder, Attorney General Schuette, members of the Michigan delegation in the State legislature, Congressional Representatives Conyers and Lawrence, Senators Stabenow and Peters, and State Representatives Roberts and Irwin

Resolution to Shut Down Bridge "Line 5"

On June 7, 2016, Council Member Sheffield requested that LPE draft a resolution calling for the immediate shut down of Bridge 5 Line 5 oil and natural gas pipelines beneath the River Rouge. The resolution was adopted.

If Council has any other questions or concerns regarding this subject, LPE will be happy to provide further research and information upon request.