Resolution Urging The Shutdown Of Enbridge Line No. 5 Under The Straits Of Mackinac

Commissioner Fred Miller On Behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Offers the Following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Enbridge Line No. 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, Line No. 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act (1955 PA 247) was adopted so a permit to ensure that the pipeline wouldn’t pose a threat to the waters or the public’s use of the waters was not required; 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 the Straits of Mackinac can be the “worst possible place” for an oil spill in the Great Lakes; 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 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, 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, one out of every five jobs in Michigan is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes, and tourism is one of Michigan’s largest income industries bringing in billions of travelers dollars spent each year; 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, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners closely monitors Enbridge Line No. 6 which runs through a portion of northern Macomb County; and

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners is dedicated to protecting the Great Lakes, Michigan rivers, and streams and adopted Resolutions No. R13-142 and No. R15-192 to oppose the construction of an underground nuclear waste repository near the Great Lakes Basin in Ontario, Canada, and Resolution No. R14-163 to urge the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to revise rules for hydraulic fracking; and

WHEREAS, protection of Michigan’s water supplies and resources is better accomplished by proactive prevention of contamination and environmental degradation.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urges the shutdown of Enbridge Line No. 5 and stop the transportation of oil under the Straits of Mackinac.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports Michigan House Resolution No. 182 and Michigan House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 introduced by State Representatives Sarah Roberts and Jeff Irwin calling on Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette to shutdown Enbridge Line No. 5.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution, digital copies if possible, be provided to Governor Rick Snyder; Attorney General Bill Schuette; Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Keith Creagh; SE Michigan Field Office Director of MDEQ Jack Lanigan; all members of the Macomb County State Legislative Delegation; all members of the Macomb County Federal Legislative Delegation; all members of the Macomb Area Communities for Regional Opportunities (MACRO); Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel; Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development Director John Paul Rea; Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco; Executive Director of Michigan Leagues of Conservation Voters Lisa Wozniak; Board President of Michigan Leagues of Conservation Voters Elizabeth Lykins; Sierra Club of Michigan State Director Anne Woiwode; Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Deputy Director Steve Currie; Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Director of Legislative Affairs Dana Gill; GCSI Director Kirk Profit; and GCSI Associate Gary Owen; and Food & Water Watch Michigan Organizer Mariah Urueta.

Dave Flynn  
Macomb County Board Chair

Fred Miller  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 9

Carmella Sabaugh  
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Passed at 6/9/16 Full Board Meeting