

CITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 16-36

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF MICHIGAN LEGISLATORSTO
SHUT DOWN ENBRIDGE LINE 5 UNDER THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC**

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City held on September 6, 2016 at 7:00 o'clock p.m., local time, at the City Hall.

PRESENT, Commissioners: Knott, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

ABSENT, Commissioners: Anderson, Milcarek

WHEREAS, The City Commission takes notice of and acknowledges the following:

Line 5 is a set of twin, 62-year-old pipelines owned by Enbridge. Inc. that carry light crude oil and natural gas under the Straits of Mackinac; and

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

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

One out of every five jobs in Michigan is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes, that in 2009 the Great Lakes were linked to over 1.5 million jobs, with Michigan accounting for 35 percent of those jobs

Tourism is one of Michigan's largest income industries bringing in billions of travelers dollars spent each year, while agriculture, fisheries, shipping and industry also depend on the health of the Great Lakes; and

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

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

Enbridge was responsible for one of the worst and most expensive oils 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

That Line 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act was adopted so there was no requirement to obtain a permit and ensure that the pipeline wouldn't pose a threat to Great Lakes waters or the public's use of the waters; and

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

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

That 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

That as citizens of this, the Great Lakes State, we have a responsibility to be wise stewards of the waters of our State for generations to come; and

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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this, the 6th day of September, 2016, the City Commissioners of the City of Kalamazoo support shutting down Line 5 and the flow of oil under the Great Lakes, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Kalamazoo City Commission supports the adoption by the Legislature of H.R. 182 introduced by Representative Sarah Roberts and C.R. 15 introduced by State Representative Jeff Irwin Senator Mike Nofs calling on Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette to shut down Line 5, and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, on behalf of the City Commission send a letter to Governor Rick Snyder, Attorney General Bill Schuette, our State Representatives, State Senators and U.S. Senators calling on them to take swift action to shut down Line 5.

The above resolution was offered by Commissioner Knott and supported by Commissioner Sykes.

AYES, Commissioners: Knott, Sykes, Urban, Vice Mayor Cooney, Mayor Hopewell

NAYS, Commissioners: None

ABSTAIN, Commissioners: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Kalamazoo at a regular meeting held on September 6, 2016. Public notice was given and the meeting was conducted in full compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267, 1976). Minutes of the meeting will be available as required by the Act.


Scott A. Borling, City Clerk