



Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority

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RESOLUTION 01-23-14

OPPOSITION TO TRANSPORTATION OF DILUTED BITUMEN AND OTHER HEAVY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN THE GREAT LAKES

WHEREAS, The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) exists for the purpose of managing the fishery resource under the Treaty of 1836, 7 Stat. 491, through regulation of treaty fishing activity by members of the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and

WHEREAS, the right to fish under the 1836 Treaty is dependent upon the ability of the Great Lakes and inland ecosystems to support viable and stable fish stocks; and

WHEREAS, the physical properties of diluted bitumen derived from tar sands petroleum deposits such as those being mined in Alberta, Canada, and any heavy petroleum products (heavy petroleum) that sink in water are exceptionally difficult to remediate when spilled in fresh water; and

WHEREAS, a network of petroleum product and natural gas pipelines of various ages and dubious integrity exist in the Great Lakes including some that may be transporting diluted bitumen as evidenced by the spill that occurred from an Enbridge Inc. pipeline in the Kalamazoo River watershed in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Enbridge Inc. Line 5 extends through the 1836 Treaty-ceded lands of Michigan and beneath the Straits of Mackinac in an especially sensitive and vulnerable area; and

WHEREAS, diluted bitumen may hasten corrosion of steel pipelines leading to spills;

WHEREAS, there are proposals to transfer diluted bitumen and/or crude oil from pipelines to vessels for transportation across the Great Lakes and connecting channels; and

WHEREAS, the use of rail cars and tanker trucks to transport crude oil to refineries in the Great Lakes region has increased greatly in recent years and accidents have led to the loss of lives and damage to the environment; and

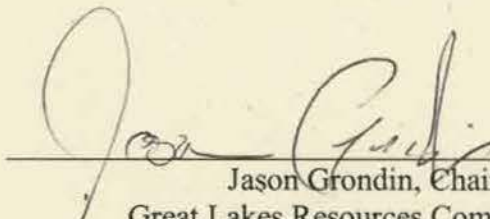
WHEREAS, spills of diluted bitumen and/or other heavy petroleum products in the Great Lakes region threaten the health of people, the health of the ecosystem and the livelihood of tribal members engaged in commercial fishing activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes Resources Committee of CORA hereby states its unqualified opposition to the transport of diluted bitumen and heavy petroleum products by any means, but especially by pipeline across or through the Great Lakes, their connecting channels or watersheds.

AND, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that CORA urges the governments of the United States, Canada and the Great Lakes states and provinces to prohibit transport of diluted bitumen and heavy petroleum products by any means, but especially by pipeline across or through the Great Lakes, their connecting channels or watersheds.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the Great Lakes Resources Committee to the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a duly called, noticed and convened meeting on the 23rd day of January, 2014, with a quorum present and with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 absent.



Jason Grondin, Chairman
Great Lakes Resources Committee of the
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority