

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

2608 Government Center Drive

Manistee MI 49660

(231) 723-8288

Resolution #16-0302-067

Resolution to Urge the Michigan Legislature and Other Regulatory Agencies to Immediately Decommission the Line 5 Oil Pipeline in the Mackinac Straits

WHEREAS, the status of the *Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek* (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and Treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council is authorized under the Tribal Constitution, Article IV, Section 7(a) to promote, protect and provide for the public health, peace, morals, education and general welfare of the Little River Band and its members; and

WHEREAS, our ancestors reserved the right to hunt, fish and gather within the territories ceded under the 1836 Treaty of Washington ('1836 Ceded Territory'), and is a right which we as Aníshinaábek continue to exercise; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 is a set of identical, 62-year-old pipelines owned by Enbridge that carry petroleum products, natural gas, and other chemical products under the Straits of Mackinac through an especially sensitive and vulnerable area of the 1836 Ceded Territory; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, Line 5's small benefits are vastly outweighed by the enormous risks posed to 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water and the vast economic, recreational, and environmental benefits the Great Lakes provide; 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, it would be virtually impossible to effectively recover oil and prevent or minimize damages to natural resources if a leak occurred during the winter when the lakes are covered with ice; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has a responsibility to be wise stewards of the lands and waters under its protection for the benefit of future generations; and


WHEREAS, we believe the most responsible action with respect to Line 5 is to decommission it, and that any other solution falls short of Michigan's public trust duty to "secure to its people the prevention of pollution, impairment or destruction of its natural resources, and rights of navigation, fishing, hunting and use of its lands and waters for other public purposes";

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by this resolution states its urging and support for the immediate and permanent decommissioning of Line 5.

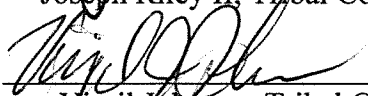
IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians by this resolution pledges to cooperate with any legislative or regulatory body with official oversight authority over the subject matter and/or geographical area to achieve this end.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 8 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, and 1 ABSENT, at a Regular Session of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council held on March 2, 2016, at the Little River Band Ottawa Indians' Government Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such vote.



Joseph Riley II, Tribal Council Recorder



Virgil Johnson, Tribal Council Speaker

Attest:

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