

# Lac Vieux Desert Band Of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribal Government

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## *Executive Officers:*

James Williams Jr., Tribal Chairman  
Mike Hazen Jr., Tribal Vice-Chairman  
Susan M. McGeshick, Tribal Treasurer  
Vera Klingman, Tribal Secretary



## *Council Members:*

Cheryl McGeshick  
Daisy McGeshick  
Mitchell McGeshick  
Tyrone McGeshick  
Henry Smith

## RESOLUTION T2016-058A

### A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR REMOVAL OR DECOMMISSIONING OF ENBRIDGE LINE 5 IN MACKINAC STRAITS

**WHEREAS,** The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians ("Tribe" or "Band"), a federally recognized Indian tribe organized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, 48 Stat. 984, 25 U.S.C. § 465; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Article IV of the Constitution of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians ("Constitution") the Tribal Council ("Council") is the governing body of the Tribe; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Article IV (a), the Tribal Council has the power to "promote and protect the health, safety, education, and general welfare of the Band and its members;" and,

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Article IV (b), the Tribal Council has the power to "promulgate ordinances, and adopt resolutions not inconsistent with this Constitution, and to enforce the same; and,

**WHEREAS,** Line 5 is a set of twin, 63-year-old pipelines owned by Enbridge that carry light crude oil and natural gas under the Straits of Mackinac; 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 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 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

**WHEREAS,** tourism is one of Michigan's largest income industries bringing in billions of travelers' dollars spent each year; and

**WHEREAS,** agriculture, fisheries, shipping and industry depend on the health of the Great Lakes; 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,** Enbridge has a shaky safety track record that includes 1,244 reportable spills, leaks and releases from 1996 to 2013; and

**WHEREAS,** 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

**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,** corrosion is the number one reason that pipelines fail; and

**WHEREAS,** Line 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act was adopted so it didn't have to obtain a permit and ensure that the pipeline wouldn't pose a threat to the waters or the public's use of the waters; 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,** The Tribe has a responsibility to be wise stewards of the waters of our lands for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS,** protection of Great Lakes 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 the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians supports stopping the transportation of oil under the Great Lakes; and

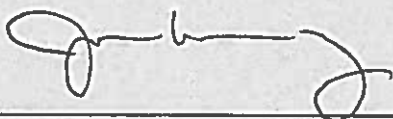
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that *Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians* supports the decommissioning and removal of Line 5 from underneath the Mackinac Straits; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the appropriate offices of the State of Michigan to voice Lac Vieux Desert's position on Line 5.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Chairman of the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, a tribal government operating under a Constitution adopted pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act 25 U.S.C. 476 and, more specifically, 25 U.S.C. 1300(h), do hereby certify that the Tribal Council of the Band is composed of nine (9) members, of whom (9), constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly called, noticed, convened and held on the 11th day of August, 2016 and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of (7) members for, (0) against, and (1) abstaining, and that the said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

  
Vera Klingman – Tribal Secretary

  
James Williams, Jr – Tribal Chairman