

RESOLUTION

Reference: State Platform

Categories: Public Protection & Natural Resource & Energy

TITLE OF RESOLUTION:

Decommissioning of Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline

Drafted by: (Name/Address/Phone)

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Adopted by: (Name/Address/Phone of Democratic group)

Iosco County Democratic Party

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WHEREAS, the Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline has transported predominately Canadian crude oil and natural gas liquids since 1953 from Superior, Wisconsin eastward across Michigan's Upper Peninsula to dual submerged pipelines under the Straits of Mackinac, through Michigan's Lower Peninsula and crossing under the St. Clair River to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada for a total length of 645 miles; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 has leaked over a million gallons of oil since 1968 and in July, 2010 Enbridge Line 6B spilled over a million gallons of heavy crude into the Kalamazoo River watershed causing a \$1.2 billion clean-up effort, demonstrating that continued operations of Line 5 pose a major risk of severe damage and economic loss to individuals, businesses, native American communities and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 delivers nearly 95% of the 23 million gallons of Canadian crude oil transported daily under the Straits of Mackinaw to Canadian refineries for the Canadian domestic market or export, as well as crude oil products from the Kalkaska area oil fields to refineries in Detroit, Michigan and Toledo, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, operations of Line 5 provide only modest revenue to the State and its municipalities along with a few hundred jobs and provides delivery of less than 40% of the propane usage in the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, a major rupture of Line 5 under the Straits would be impossible to contain and be cleaned-up risking contamination of more than 700 miles of Michigan shoreline, resulting in multi-billion dollars in losses to tourism, commercial navigation, recreational boating, commercial and sports fishing, declines in property values and contamination of drinking water, with decades of environmental and public health damages and losses of more than 25,000 tourist jobs across the state; and

WHEREAS, a recent industry consulting firm reported that decommissioning Line 5 would cause only a modest rise in gasoline and propane prices in Michigan, and furthermore that propane supplies to users in the Upper Peninsula could be supplied via a new smaller pipeline from Superior, Wisconsin or via a few rail cars; and

WHEREAS, Governor Snyder concluded a deal with Enbridge to keep crude oil flowing for the foreseeable future under the Straits of Mackinac ignoring pleas from thousands of constituents of Michigan and shortchanging the work of his own advisory panel and task force; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's agreement with Enbridge to keep oil flowing through the Straits of Mackinac ignores almost a hundred resolutions from Michigan communities including Native American tribes calling for immediate action to curtail crude oil shipments over and under the public trust waters of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has the legal authority and duty under public trust law to manage the bottomlands and waters of the Great Lakes within Michigan to prevent pollution and protect the natural resources of the State.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Michigan Democratic Party calls for immediate State action to promote decommissioning and removal of Line 5 from under the Straits of Mackinac and along its entire route across the State, the construction of a new pipeline or alternative method to deliver propane to Upper Peninsula users and the construction of a new smaller pipeline to deliver Kalkaska area oil products to refineries in Michigan and Ohio; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Michigan Democratic Party supports State actions to promote uninterrupted and economical energy supplies to all residents of the State, including increased usage of renewable energy resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT this resolution be forwarded to the State Democratic Party with a recommendation for its acceptance and placement in the appropriate document or with appropriate committee for action.

SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON: *Józef J. Drozdowski*

March 7, 2018

DATE: