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Perform and Environmental Impact Analysis of Enbridge Tar Sands Pipelines

WHEREAS Enbridge Energy Corp., a Canadian company, is currently using Pipeline 61 to transport tar sands "dilbit," heavy crude oil diluted with undisclosed chemicals through a pipeline running from Superior to Delevan, Wisconsin and then to northern Illinois where it is processed and shipped out. Enbridge proposes to triple the pressure and flow of oil from the current 400,000 to 1.2 million barrels per day, exceeding the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, without any increased safeguards. Enbridge also plans a second pipeline number 66 which would run alongside Line 61. These oil lines run under or through major rivers including the Wisconsin, Rock, Flambeau, Namekagon and Nemadji and wetlands at the headwaters of the St. Croix and Brule, among others. Enbridge has experienced numerous pipeline leaks and spills including the largest land spill in U.S. history into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, which has not been successfully restored at costs exceeding one billion dollars. A major spill of sinking dilbit and the chemicals it contains, including carcinogenic benzene, into a wetland or waterway would be disastrous for fisheries and wildlife habitat. Adams, Dane, Jefferson, Rock and Walworth counties have passed resolutions asking the DNR to hold public hearings on Enbridge's pipeline expansion.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the DNR should hold additional public hearings on the proposed Pipeline 61 expansion, should require public disclosure of the contents of materials flowing through the pipelines and should conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement before allowing Enbridge to construct Line 66.

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