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A RESOLUTION to address the risks and costs of pipeline spills

WHEREAS Enbridge Energy wants to increase its capacity of tar sand oil in WI. Pipeline 67 comes from Canada, crosses Minnesota to Superior, WI. Line 67 connects with Line 61 which travels through WI to Illinois. Line 67 also connects with Line 5 through Michigan, and is exposed to the waters separating Lake Michigan from Lake Huron.

Line 67 may increase from 570,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 800,000 bpd, pending the MN Public Utilities Commission's review. Line 61 may increase from 560,000 bpd to 1.2 million bpd.

Tar sand oil is heavy crude oil diluted with chemicals, including benzene, and is highly corrosive. It must be pumped at higher pressures and higher temperatures through pipelines which makes leaks more likely. Increased capacity and pressure, will make future spills worse than past spills.

In 2010, Enbridge spilled more than a million gallons of tar sand oil in Michigan's Kalamazoo River with clean-up costs exceeding $1 Billion.

BE IT RESOLVED that the WI Conservation Congress direct the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and WI DNR to hold public hearings before allowing more tar sands oil through WI; ask US State Dept for a environmental impact review of the risks and clean up-costs of spills to WI's waters, land and the entire Great Lakes; ask the MN PUC to deny Enbridge's Line 67 expansion project; and work to educate the public about the risks and costs inherent in gas and oil pipeline spills.

NAME OF AUTHOR: Henry Boschen

ADDRESS: 7736 178th St

CITY, STATE, ZIP: Chippewa Falls WI 54729

PHONE NUMBER: 715-226-1131

COUNTY INTRODUCING IN: Chippewa Falls

SIGNATURE: Henry Boschen