



**Committee of Advisors  
to the  
Great Lakes Fishery Commission**



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**A RESOLUTION URGING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC  
PIPELINE**

**WHEREAS**, the Enbridge Energy Inc. owned pipeline, Line 5, runs beneath the Mackinac Bridge in the Straits of Mackinac, an especially sensitive and vulnerable area with fast-moving currents and frequent ice-cover;

**WHEREAS**, the existing pipeline is more than sixty years old and consists of 2 parallel pipelines that are each 4 miles long and 20 inches in diameter;

**WHEREAS**, the pipeline is structurally unsupported in many areas and is subjected regularly to intense environmental stressors;

**WHEREAS**, 22 million gallons of crude oil, primarily tar sands (called bitumen), and natural gas fluids flow through the pipelines daily;

**WHEREAS**, the physical properties of dilbit, derived from diluted bitumen, make it one of the most toxic and dirtiest types of oil and make clean-up extremely difficult as it is heavier than water and sinks to the bottom of the spill area;

**WHEREAS**, the pipeline was not initially constructed to transport diluted bitumen which requires higher pressure than conventional crude oils to move through the line, and the higher pressures increase the likelihood of corrosion and ruptures on the pipeline;

**WHEREAS**, Enbridge recently began pumping 10% more oil through Line 5 and has proposed a series of small pipeline projects that will further increase the daily load by 1.8 million gallons.

**WHEREAS**, Enbridge was responsible for the 2010 oil spill in the Kalamazoo River, the largest spill on record in the lower 48 states, which resulted in roughly one million gallons of dilbit being released into the river and on-going clean-up costs estimated at \$1 billion USD;

**WHEREAS**, a federal review found that the Kalamazoo River spill was a result of Enbridge failing to repair known pipeline defects and a lax government oversight of pipeline maintenance and spill-response plans;

*The Committee of Advisors consists of both U.S. and Canadian representatives, from First Nation, commercial, recreational, academic, agency, and public fishery interests in the Great Lakes Basin. Advisors provide advice to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; U.S. advisors are nominated by the State Governors, and appointed by the commission. Canadian advisors are nominated by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and appointed by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.*

**WHEREAS**, Line 5 transports twice as much oil per day as the line responsible for the spill in the Kalamazoo River and the estimated response time for shutting down Line 5 in the event of an emergency is eight minutes during which time an estimated 1.5 million gallons of oil would be released into the Straits of Mackinac;

**WHEREAS**, the response time to shut down the malfunctioning pipeline that resulted in the Kalamazoo River spill was seventeen hours;

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes organizations, such as the National Wildlife Federation, have called on Enbridge Energy Inc. to fully replace Line 5 and Great Lakes congressional members Stabenow, Dingell, and Levin have requested further information about this troubling pipeline;

**WHEREAS**, a catastrophic oil spill anywhere in the Great Lakes basin, particularly in the Straits of Mackinac, would have far-reaching implications on fishery restoration, fish habitat, the health of the ecosystem, and the recovery of the Great Lakes, affecting the economic and physical well-being of millions of people who live, work, recreate in the basin and subsist on Great Lakes fish.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the binational committee of advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call on all appropriate authorities to require the immediate replacement of Line 5 using the best available technology.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the binational committee of advisors of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission call upon the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to carry this recommendation to all appropriate parties.

Passed unanimously  
Canadian and U.S. Advisors  
June 3, 2014