CODE
28

YEAR
2015

Citizen Resolution # 2

(For Hearing Officer completion)

Require Environmental Review on Tar Sands Pipelines

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

WHEREAS Enbridge Energy Corp., a Canadian company, is currently using Pipeline 61 to transport tar sands "dilbit," heavy crude oil diluted with toxic chemicals through a pipeline running from Superior to Delavan, 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 another pipeline which would run alongside Line 61. These tar sands pipelines 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 over 800 pipeline leaks and spills since 1999 including the largest tar sands spill in U.S. history, impacting the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. Tar sands, unlike traditional oil, sinks in water; five years later, the Kalamazoo river has not been successfully restored and costs have exceeded $1 Billion. 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. Jefferson, Dane, Wood, Walworth, Adams, and Rock Counties have passed resolutions asking the DNR to hold public hearings on Enbridge's pipeline expansion.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the DNR should conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement process on the risks of the Pipeline 61 expansion with public hearings throughout Wisconsin before allowing Enbridge to construct any new pipelines.

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