Eliminating the Risk of a Line 5 spill

RESOLUTION: Enbridge Energy wants to build a new segment of their Line 5 pipeline in Ashland and Iron Counties, within the Bad River watershed. The Line 5 pipeline travels from Superior, Wisconsin through Northern Wisconsin, across the Upper Peninsula of MI, under the Straits of Mackinac (where Lake Huron and Lake Michigan meet), into the Lower Peninsula, and then on to Sarnia in Ontario. The pipeline is more than sixty-six years old.

The pipeline has already spilled over 1.1 million gallons of oil in 33 incidents, according to the ReWildlife Federation. A study by the University of Michigan described the Straits as “the worst possible place for an oil spill in the Great Lakes.” The pipeline poses a risk to the Great Lakes, a source of drinking water for more than 1.6 million Wisconsin residents, according to the DNR.

Enbridge’s proposed new segment would mean more investment in old-fashioned technology and a pipeline that needs to be decommissioned. The area that Enbridge has proposed this new segment is upstream of Copper Falls State Park, threatening that beloved park with contamination. It also risks cultural and natural resources that are important to the Bad River and many Tribes in the region, critical wetlands for the region, and other important natural resources.

BE IT RESOLVED that the WI Conservation Congress direct the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and DNR not to allow Enbridge to build the new Line 5 segment and to encourage them to instead decommission the pipeline.

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.