

Find yourself next to the water.



City of Ashland, Wisconsin

601 Main Street West — Ashland, WI 54806 — www.coawi.org

July 9, 2020

RE: Letter in Support of Denial of Enbridge Pipeline Permit Application to Relocate Line 5 in the Bad River Watershed

To Whom It May Concern:

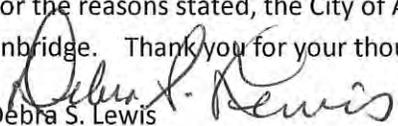
I write in my capacity of Mayor for the City of Ashland, Wisconsin and in reference to the pending application of Enbridge to relocate Line 5 in the Bad River Watershed. I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Relocation of Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline, including the Attached Maps 1 & 2 indicating the proposed location of the relocated pipeline.

I call your attention to the attached Resolution of Support of the Efforts of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to Remove the Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline from the Bad River Watershed. This Resolution was passed unanimously (10-0) by the City of Ashland Common Council on February 11, 2020.

The Resolution cites as reasons for this position the history of leaks and spills of Enbridge Line 5 during its operational lifetime and the interdependency of the economies and communities of the City of Ashland and Bad River that would bear the costs of a pipeline failure into the watershed. The Bad River ends in the Kakagon-Bad River Sloughs which are some of the most extensive and pristine coastal wetlands of the Great Lakes, supporting rare plants and animals, migratory birds, fish spawning habitat, and manoomin (wild rice) beds. An oil spill in the Bad River watershed could irreparably damage natural and cultural resources of our region. Special attention in the EIS should be placed on items listed in 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 5.12, 5.13 and 5.14.

It should also be noted that the City of Ashland acquires 100% of its drinking supply from Lake Superior and the Bad River watershed is a source water for Lake Superior.

For the reasons stated, the City of Ashland is opposed to the current proposed route alternative by Enbridge. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these comments,


Debra S. Lewis
Ashland Mayor

Enclosure: Resolution

RESOLUTION

No. 17547

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS OF THE BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA TO REMOVE THE ENBRIDGE LINE 5 PIPELINE FROM THE BAD RIVER WATERSHED

WHEREAS tribal nations have sovereign authority over their territory^{1, 2}; and

WHEREAS the pipeline crosses Bad River tribal land, and traverses the Bad River watershed; and

WHEREAS the Bad River Band has requested the removal of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline from the Bad River watershed; and

WHEREAS the Bad River ends in the Kakagon-Bad River Sloughs which are some of the most extensive and pristine coastal wetlands of the Great Lakes, supporting rare plants and animals, migratory birds, fish spawning habitat, and manoomin (wild rice) beds^{3, 4}; and

WHEREAS during its operational lifetime, Enbridge Line 5 has experienced at least 29 leaks and spills totaling over one million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids released into the environment⁵; and

WHEREAS an oil spill in the Bad River watershed could irreparably damage natural and cultural resources of the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ashland and the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have shared and interdependent communities and economies that would further bear the costs of a pipeline failure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Ashland resolves to support the efforts of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to remove the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline from the Bad River watershed.

¹ Executive Order #18 "Relating to an Affirmation of the Intergovernmental Relationships Among the State of Wisconsin and Tribal Nations Located Within the State", Governor Tony Evers.

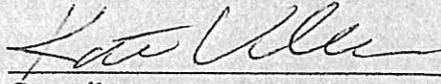
²<https://www.wisbar.org/NewsPublications/WisconsinLawyer/Pages/Article.aspx?Volume=88&Issue=5&ArticleID=24068>

³ <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/er/ER0803.pdf>

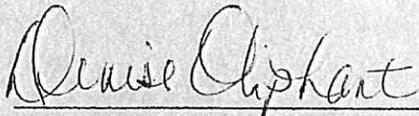
⁴ <https://www.wisconsinwetlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Kakagon-Bad-River-Sloughs.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.nwf.org/en/Latest-News/Press-Releases/2017/4-24-17-Line-5-Oil-Pipeline-System-Spanning-Michigan-Has-Had-29-Known-Spills>

PASSED: February 11, 2020

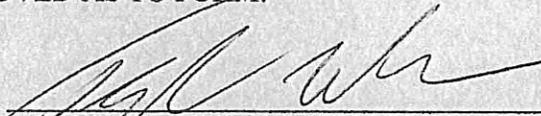


Councilperson

ATTEST: 
Denise Oliphant, City Clerk


Debra S. Lewis, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Tyler W. Wickman, City Attorney