

RESOLUTION
By Gordon, Cano, and Schroeder

Opposing the Enbridge Energy Line 3 Tar Sands Oil Pipeline.

Whereas, Minneapolis declared a climate emergency in December 2019 and committed to take “aggressive action to halt, reverse, mitigate, and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency”; and

Whereas, after six years of contentious regulatory hearings, the controversial expansion and reroute of the Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline is now being constructed by the Canadian corporation, Enbridge Inc., in northern Minnesota; and

Whereas, Line 3 is proposed to initially transport more than 760,000 barrels per day, and up to 915,000 barrels per day, of toxic tar sands oil at a cost of over \$4 billion; and

Whereas, according to the December 24, 2020, federal court filing against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, “Tar sands oil production generates almost triple the global warming pollution as conventional oil production due to the massive amounts of energy needed to extract, upgrade, and refine the oil”; and

Whereas, more than 60,000 Minnesota citizens and tribal members have officially opposed the pipeline project on the record; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic reduced Minnesota and U.S. demand for crude oil, and the increased use of video conferencing and telecommuting in response to the pandemic will likely permanently decrease demand for crude oil; and

Whereas, expanded use of electric vehicles will reduce Minnesota, U.S., and global demand for crude oil, and the City of Minneapolis supports the rapid adoption of electric vehicles as a means to reduce fossil fuel emissions and improve air quality in its neighborhoods that suffer from environmental injustice; and

Whereas, the Minnesota Department of Commerce has deemed Line 3 as unnecessary economically and as a cultural and environmental threat to Native communities and some of the most pristine and sensitive ecosystems, watersheds, and resort areas in the state; and

Whereas, Enbridge has already met its alleged need for additional capacity that would be provided by Line 3 by using its other five crude oil pipelines through Minnesota more efficiently; and

Whereas, the construction is taking place on ceded Anishinaabe Treaty lands, during a pandemic, with thousands of out of state workers deployed who will potentially strain already fragile healthcare systems and medical staff should Covid-19 continue to escalate along the Line 3 route; and

Whereas, Line 3 is proposed to cut through treaty territory where Anishinaabe tribal members have treaty rights off of reservations that include hunting, fishing, and gathering of wild rice; and

Whereas, the Red Lake and White Earth bands argue that construction of Line 3 would destroy their “treaty-protected interest” in the land, waters, plants, and animals, as well as their “cultural and religious rights”; and

Whereas, tar sands oil extraction is the dirtiest, most destructive, and polluting oil on the planet, and spills of diluted bitumen from the tar sands are nearly impossible to clean up since they have a tendency to sink to the bottom of water bodies, especially putting deep waters such as Lake Superior at risk; and

Whereas, the pipeline will cross more than 200 water bodies and sensitive watersheds, ecosystems, and pristine landscapes in northern Minnesota; and

Whereas, the pipeline is proposed to cross the Mississippi River twice creating risk to the drinking water for millions of people, including all residents of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, the pipeline is being built during a global movement to divest from fossil fuels that has already divested over \$11 trillion from fossil fuel companies and which the City of Minneapolis has formally supported in Resolution 2020R-223, passed August 14, 2020; and

Whereas, more than 500 religious leaders have signed a letter strongly opposing Line 3 on moral grounds; and

Whereas, the Line 3 pipeline requires a “presidential permit” to cross the United States border, the same kind of permit that President Biden recently rescinded for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline due to climate change concerns;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis opposes construction of the Enbridge Energy Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline and calls on every elected leader with the authority to stop its construction to do so immediately.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council requests that the Mayor and Police Chief continue to keep Minneapolis police from participating in the Northern Lights Task Force.