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Climate Activists in Worcester to Protest TD Bank's Funding of Line 3 Oil Pipeline

Bank's "Sustainability Loan" to Enbridge, Line 3 developer, is being used for Greenwashing

WORCESTER, MA – AUGUST 13, 2021 – Today beginning at 3:00 PM, climate activists in Worcester will gather in front of the TD Bank branch at 295 Park Ave., Worcester. The protesters, from 350 Central Mass and other climate-action groups, will peacefully demonstrate their opposition to TD Bank's financing of the [Line 3](#) tar-sands oil pipeline in Minnesota. Line 3, now under construction, would carry filthy and highly corrosive tar-sands crude oil from Alberta to a refining terminal in Superior, Wisconsin, crossing unceded lands of Indigenous peoples and many waterways, including the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

The Worcester demonstration is a part of a nationwide day of action organized by [Stop the Money Pipeline](#) to "Expose Greenwashing," calling out major Wall Street banks for giving dubious "sustainability loans" to Enbridge, the company behind the Line 3 pipeline. In July, major banks, including TD Bank, JPMorgan Chase, and Citibank, facilitated \$1.5 billion in so-called sustainability loans to Enbridge.

"Sustainability loans sound good, but when you look more closely, you'll see they are next to meaningless," said Janet Cason, volunteer coordinator of 350 Central Mass. These loans reward Enbridge for reducing emissions from its buildings and vehicles, but do nothing to address the oil that flows through its pipelines and sustains the world's reliance on fossil fuels, which are the major contributor to the climate emergency. "In other words," added Cason, "so long as Enbridge uses electric vehicles and solar power in building Line 3, that's fine. This kind of corporate greenwashing is the new climate denial. We must halt this disastrous project."

Enbridge is also reimbursing local law enforcement for labor, pepper spray, K-9's, rubber bullets, and other equipment they are using to commit human rights abuses on unarmed protestors. More than 600 protestors have been arrested in Minnesota along the Line 3 pipeline route, and recently more than [200 celebrities and activists called on President Biden to cancel the pipeline](#).

Line 3 would cross 337 miles of Minnesota, largely on land of the Indigenous Anishinabee people, without their consent, threatening farmland, water supplies, and struggling small towns. Line 3 would release as much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere as 50 new coal-fired power plants.

Actions against Line 3 come just as the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Sixth Assessment Report, addressing the most up-to-date physical understanding of the climate system and climate change. In a statement, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres described the IPCC report as a "... Code Red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening. This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet."

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[350 Central Mass](#) is an all-volunteer grassroots climate-action organization and part of a coalition of like-minded organizations working to address the climate emergency.