



www.350centralmass.org

December 13, 2021

Hon. James McGovern
12 E. Worcester St. #1
Worcester, MA 01604

Dear Congressman McGovern and Staff:

In response to a national call for action on the Line 3 tar sands pipeline, we are doing a standout outside of your office on Tuesday, December 14th. This date marks the one-year anniversary of the first large-scale arrest of water protectors acting to Stop Line 3. As you know, this pipeline is a disaster on multiple fronts – climate impact, pollution, violation of indigenous treaty rights and infringement on the human rights of nonviolent activists.

Specifically, we are asking you to use your influence as a member of national Democratic congressional leadership to do the following:

- Pressure the Biden administration to immediately order the Army Corps of Engineers to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Given the ongoing pollution of aquifers, surface waters and wetlands, for which Enbridge already faces \$3.2 million in fines, the pipeline should be shut down immediately pending completion of the EIS. Regional waters already face permanent damage just from construction and operations activities. Is the administration going to wait for the inevitable catastrophic tar sands spill before acting? Furthermore, Enbridge has been unable to obtain the required \$200 million in liability insurance for environmental damage, nor has it established the promised Decommissioning Trust Fund. This Canadian company has a 20-year track record of more than 800 oil spills including the catastrophic 2010 Kalamazoo spill.
- Demand that the Biden administration respect Anishinaabe sovereignty. The new construction on Line 3 was approved without the full and informed consent of the Anishinaabe people and violates their treaty rights.
- Remind the Biden administration that “leading on climate” cannot plausibly include approval of a tar sands project whose carbon emissions are the equivalent of 50 new coal-fired power plants. Even the International Energy Agency has said that NO new fossil fuel projects can be built if the world is to avoid catastrophic climate impacts.
- Insist that Minnesota Governor Walz and Attorney General Ellison drop the charges against the 1000+ water protectors who have been arrested for protesting Line 3. Some have even been charged with “terrorism.” Local law enforcement and the state collaborated with a criminal foreign corporation to violate American citizens’ rights to protect their land and water. This is outrageous and must be rectified.

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Though we recognize that the Biden administration is an improvement over the disastrous Trump administration, taking one step forward for Trump's three steps backward hardly constitutes inspiring environmental leadership. Aside from the real environmental and human rights damages which Line 3 represents, the political costs of this administration's hypocrisy should concern national Democratic leaders.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for acting on our concerns.

Yours truly,

Members of 350 Central Mass and local allies

Background

Line 3 is a pipeline expansion to bring nearly a million barrels of tar sands per day from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. It was proposed in 2014 by Enbridge, a Canadian pipeline company responsible for the largest inland oil spill in the US. Enbridge has built a new pipeline corridor through untouched wetlands, wild rice beds, and the treaty territory of Anishinaabe peoples, through the Mississippi River headwaters to the shore of Lake Superior.

The project was granted final approval by Minnesota on November 12, 2020, through what many considered a flawed process. The Army Corps of Engineers issued its permits on November 23. The company seized the political moment and rushed to complete construction. Tar sands began flowing through the pipeline on October 1, 2021.

Contrary to the pipeline company's argument that Line 3 is merely an "improvement" of an existing pipeline, this project represents a massive expansion. It is not about safe transportation of a necessary product, it's about expansion of a dying tar sands industry. The oil is not destined for use in Minnesota or probably even the US; the company plans to increase its exports of tar sands from the Gulf Coast to international markets. For more information, see <https://www.stoline3.org/>