



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 02 – 2017M

AGING OIL PIPELINES AND LINE 5

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world, providing drinking water to more than 48 million people and serving as the economic base for much of Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin is a complex and fragile ecosystem, encompassing a wide range of human and natural habitat and activities; and

WHEREAS, crude oil and its derivatives are a key component of the energy sources used in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region and all over North America; and

WHEREAS, crude oil needs to be transported from the production regions in the Western part of North America to industrial sites in the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast in order to be refined, transformed and distributed; and

WHEREAS, pipelines are a safer and more cost effective way to transport oil, gasoline, and other petroleum products than rail, trucks, or boats; and

WHEREAS, over fifty percent of U.S. oil and gas pipelines are more than fifty years old and were built prior to current construction and safety standards according to the Department of Energy's Quadrennial Energy Review; and

WHEREAS, the Enbridge Energy Line 5 pipeline is a set of twin, 64-year-old pipelines carrying 23 million gallons light crude oil and natural gas liquids daily under the Straits of Mackinac; and

WHEREAS, the currents in the Straits of Mackinac at peak volumetric transport can be more than 10 times greater than the flow of Niagara Falls, and according to a 2014 University of Michigan study are the "worst possible place" for an oil spill in the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the state of Michigan granted Enbridge an easement to operate Line 5 under the Straits in 1953, requiring the pipeline be not less than 0.812 inches thick, but some areas are up to 41 percent thinner than required due to milling defects in the original construction; and



WHEREAS, the easement requires supportive anchors at least every 75 feet, but inspections have repeatedly found unsupported spans exceeding this length, which puts cumulative stress on the pipeline and its welds over the long term; and

WHEREAS, Line 5 is an example of the threat posed by aging pipelines, the lack of transparency around maintenance, and the lack of accountability around safety and emergency preparedness within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin that can cause serious harm to our freshwater resources and public safety and wellbeing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on oil pipeline operators in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin to maintain public transparency and accountability for all pipelines as well as robust safety, maintenance and emergency preparedness in accordance with state and federal standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cities Initiative encourage oil pipeline operators in the basin to ensure structural and operational integrity of oil pipelines to protect the health and safety of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and the people of the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the release of the Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board's forthcoming, independent reports on Line 5, the Cities Initiative encourages Enbridge to commit to compliance with the reports' recommendations by the Cities Initiative's 2018 Annual Meeting or the Cities Initiative will consider calling for halted operations of Line 5; and

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Michigan Governor and the Michigan Attorney General, the Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board, the US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration and the National Energy Board.

Signed this 14th day of June 2017

Denis Coderre, Chair
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor, City of Montréal