



Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited Enbridge Line 5 Relocation Project - Resolution

WHEREAS the Wisconsin State Council (“Council”) of Trout Unlimited (TU) supports the organization’s mission “to conserve, protect and restore North America’s coldwater fisheries and their watersheds”;

AND WHEREAS the Council supports the TU *Policy on Climate Change and Promoting Responsible Energy Development to Protect Coldwater Fisheries* (June 2015), acknowledging that long-term protection of coldwater fisheries requires “a fundamental shift in energy sources from fossil fuels to low-carbon technologies and conservation”;

AND WHEREAS the Council further recognizes that expanding infrastructure for extraction, processing and transport of petroleum products runs counter to the goal of building alternatives to fossil fuel-based economies and societies;

AND WHEREAS the Great Lakes Working Group of TU’s National Leadership Council has identified the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline as “the most immediate and highly controversial peril to the Great Lakes basin” (*A Case for the Great Lakes*);

AND WHEREAS Wisconsin and Michigan are represented in the Great Lakes Working Group, which has acknowledged the potentially catastrophic danger posed by the Line 5 pipeline at the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac, putting Lakes Huron and Michigan at risk;

AND WHEREAS Line 5 transports 540,000 barrels (23 million gallons) per day of light synthetic, light sweet crude oil, and natural gas liquids from refineries in Superior, WI to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario, from which Wisconsin as a whole derives minimal benefit and utilizes no product, yet assumes great risks;

AND WHEREAS Enbridge has proposed the “Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project” (Project) in Ashland and Iron Counties to re-route Line 5 around the Bad River Reservation in response to the actions taken by the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians for the decommissioning and removal of the pipeline from Tribal lands;

AND WHEREAS the Council recognizes the Sovereignty of Native Americans, including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians; and respects treaty rights, including rights in ceded territories, in regard to water and land resources; and supports the Band’s Resolution to decommission Line 5 on the Reservation;

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited (“WITU”) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which consists of approximately 5,800 volunteer members in 21 chapters in Wisconsin working to ensure that future generations have access to cold, clean, fishable water. In a typical year, WITU and its Chapters report over 50,000 volunteer hours, working on conservation projects, education and outreach events, and operating Service Partnership programs to support veterans and first responders.



AND WHEREAS the Project's 42 miles of new pipeline would traverse eight Lake Superior Basin subwatersheds that are critical to the health of northern Wisconsin coldwater fisheries and Lake Superior (*Gichigami*): Fish Creek, Upper and Lower Bad River (*Mashkiiziibii*), White River (*Waabishkaa-ziibii*), Marengo River, Tyler's Fork (*Gaa-aangwa-sagokaag-ziibiins*), Potato River (*Gaawaandag-zagaakwa-ziibii*), and Montreal River;

AND WHEREAS the Project would cross 17 designated trout streams at 47 crossing sites and an additional 68 crossings of unnamed intermittent tributaries of designated trout streams;

AND WHEREAS impacts of construction activities within or adjacent to streams would include increased turbidity and sediment loading, alteration of stream channel and adjacent wetlands, and degradation of in-stream habitat, among other impacts;

AND WHEREAS inadvertent release of drilling slurry from horizontal directional drilling operations or spills of hazardous materials during refueling operations, fuel storage, or equipment failure poses risk to wetlands, groundwater and surface waters;

AND WHEREAS construction and ongoing maintenance of the pipeline corridor and access roads would alter local hydrology through impacts to wetlands and springs;

AND WHEREAS pipelines operated by Enbridge have a long history of ruptures and spills, including the 2010 rupture of Line 6B in Marshall, MI which released over 1 million gallons of diluted bitumen/heavy crude; and along Line 5, which has spilled at least 1.13 million gallons of oil in 29 incidents since 1968 (National Wildlife Federation, 2017);

AND WHEREAS an oil spill in the headwater streams of the Lake Superior (*Gichigami*) basin would be environmentally, culturally and economically catastrophic;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited passes this resolution to express OPPOSITION to the Enbridge Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project, and to express SUPPORT for all efforts to halt expansion or relocation of the pipeline, such that Line 5 is removed from the Bad River watershed and decommissioned entirely.

Dated this Fifth day of June, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Kuhr", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Kuhr
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
State Council Chair

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited ("WITU") is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which consists of approximately 5,800 volunteer members in 21 chapters in Wisconsin working to ensure that future generations have access to cold, clean, fishable water. In a typical year, WITU and its Chapters report over 50,000 volunteer hours, working on conservation projects, education and outreach events, and operating Service Partnership programs to support veterans and first responders.



The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited (“WITU”) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which consists of approximately 5,800 volunteer members in 21 chapters in Wisconsin working to ensure that future generations have access to cold, clean, fishable water. In a typical year, WITU and its Chapters report over 50,000 volunteer hours, working on conservation projects, education and outreach events, and operating Service Partnership programs to support veterans and first responders.