

CROOKED LAKE TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
Resolution No. 2014-1

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONCERNS OF THE RESIDENTS OF CROOKED LAKE TOWNSHIP AND RECOMMENDING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY BE COMPLETED FOR THE ENBRIDGE/NDPC SANDPIPER PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 2013 Section 116D.04 provides that where there is potential for significant environmental effects resulting from any major governmental action, the action shall be preceded by a detailed environmental impact statement prepared by the responsible government unit.

WHEREAS, at least two other routes need to be fully evaluated with strong, detailed comparisons of all factors considered. Those factors should be weighted to protecting the natural resources of MN- especially those resources not found anywhere like it.

WHEREAS, the EIS needs to consider the following areas of the pipeline process;

- Impact during installation- wetlands, aquifers close to surface ground water.
- Impact of operational details- monitoring sufficiency and maintenance.
- Impact of spills and leaks - identification and mitigation
- Impact of clean up- funding reserves, damage and repair.

WHEREAS, Crooked Lake Township is located at the south eastern most part of Cass County. Crooked Lake Township consists of 36 Square miles. Six of those square miles are bodies of water. Of those bodies several bodies have critical value to Cass County and the State of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the proposed Sandpiper pipeline route by Enbridge/NDPC runs along the aquifer in Crooked Lake Township that is home to the Minnesota DNR Aquatic Management Area trout fish hatchery in Spire Valley. This hatchery is enabled by special geology and is nearly impossible to replace or replicate. Construction of the pipeline could open the aquifer given its shallowness in this area. If this happens the hatchery will lose water. The loss of the

entire hatchery's fish stocks would happen within a matter of hours should the water flow be lost. The annual production value is \$290,000. The brood stock value is far greater. The pipeline installation process could threaten the sustainability of the hatchery today, and likely destroy it for the future; as it takes 5 years to raise mature females for egg production even if fresh water can be recovered.

WHEREAS, several other significant fisheries resources are located near the proposed pipeline route within the Crooked Lake Township. These include three designated and actively managed stream trout lakes: Margaret Lakes-rainbow trout; Marion Lake managed for brook trout; and Little Andrus (Snowshoe)-managed for brook trout. Washburn and Roosevelt Lakes provide quality fisheries including supporting strong cisco populations and walleye, northern pike, bass, and pan fish. Roosevelt Lake is managed for a muskellunge fishery. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Aquatic Management Areas are located on Little Andrus and Washburn Lakes as well as Spire Valley.

WHEREAS, Minnesota commits significant annual resources to fishing and tourism in the state. The hatching of trout for our lakes, the stocking of sport fish into the lakes, as well as the management of these resources for multiple uses has enormous value to all of Minnesota. The economics and future vitality of north central Minnesota is at stake whenever its waters are endangered.

WHEREAS, the current process of pipeline approval and public involvement has been overwhelming. Given the complexity and serious risk to the state's most valuable natural resources the public's ability to comment without timely data, information, and public hearings, seems highly irregular for a project of this profound impact.

WHEREAS, now that various state agencies have raised extensive questions – specifically the DNR; we as citizens are more informed than the application ever enabled, we strongly believe this application should be denied, or at least put on hold until the Enbridge Sandpiper proposed “Southern Corridor” route is evaluated with at least two other routes. These routes should be assessed with technical aspects and consequences clearly laid out by Minnesota agencies and experts.

WHEREAS, with the history regarding spills and the performance of Enbridge in Minnesota we believe further work needs to be done for our protection. Pipelines will leak eventually. The citizens of Crooked Lake Township are concerned for the quality and future survival of the waters, hatcheries and aquifers of this area. The future of Minnesota's premier fishing and sourcing of fish, is at risk from oil spills from a company accounting for 48 % of oil spills in the state of Minnesota between 1991 and 2002.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board as follows:

The four one-of-a-kind fish hatcheries, referenced earlier, have the advantage of a geological site that allows year round water to flow allowing the hatchery to supply fingerlings to the whole state and Lake Superior. Hatcheries on multiple lakes providing a unique sustainable natural advantage that Minnesota values and supports with taxpayer dollars from the whole state needs to be understood and protected. Threatening those assets without due diligence, in favor of outside interests that threaten the very sustainability of Minnesota's most unique and important resources is unacceptable to the citizens of Crooked Lake Township and we recommend further study and analysis with completion of an Environmental Impact Study.

Adopted this 8th day of May, 2014.

BY THE TOWN BOARD

Town Chairperson

Attest: _____
Town Clerk