



161 Saint Anthony Avenue Ste. 919 | Saint Paul, MN 55103

February 24, 2021

Tim Walz  
Governor of Minnesota  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard. #130  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is tasked with analyzing and making recommendations to members of the legislature and the governor on legislation and information on programs, proposals, and projects of importance to tribal governments. We write today as the elected leaders of the federally recognized Indian Nations in the state of Minnesota with one voice in solidarity with Red Lake and White Earth's request to the Minnesota Court of Appeals to stay the construction of the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline.

As we have informed you in the past, the pipeline project opens up a brand new pipeline corridor through a water-rich environment where wild rice and other plants and animals are plentiful. The Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Bois Forte, Grand Portage and Fond du Lac Bands retain rights to hunt, fish, and gather in the areas where the pipeline is currently being constructed. Clearly, the pipeline construction and operation will negatively impact the productivity of the resources throughout the pipeline corridor.

As you are aware, the decision of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which green lighted the pipeline construction, is currently on appeal to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The Red Lake and White Earth Bands made an emergency motion to the PUC first, and then to the Minnesota Court of Appeals with a request that the construction of the pipeline be stayed during the pendency of the appeals. The motions for stay were denied. As a result, Enbridge is now furiously constructing the pipeline, literally at five separate locations along the route in effort to construct as much of the pipeline as possible before the appellate court considers the substantive issues of the appeal. It is very frustrating to us that the PUC failed to grasp the severity of the



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living tribal cultural resources that are being damaged by the pipeline construction, as well as the PUC's apparent inability to recognize the irreparable harm that will result to the environment.

More importantly, the impact of President Biden's decision to rescind the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline will now embolden Enbridge to further expand the corridor that the Canadian company has succeeded in opening with additional pipelines to export tar sands out of Alberta. President Biden's decision to stop the Keystone XL pipeline has essentially handed Enbridge a monopoly for exporting tar sands out of Canada. This doesn't bode well for us.

We request, with urgency, that you issue an Executive Order staying the construction of the Line 3 pipeline during the pendency of the appeals of the PUC's and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's permits which enabled the company to construct the pipeline while the decisions of these agencies are currently in the appellate process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Larsen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Larsen  
Chairman, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council