



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF
OJIBWE INDIANS

Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

JOINT RESOLUTION 16-03-29-15

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE ROUTE PROPOSED BY
NORTH DAKOTA PIPELINE TO CONSTRUCT THE SANDPIPER
PIPELINE PROJECT**

- WHEREAS**, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly (“Band Assembly”) is the duly elected governing body for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), a federally recognized Indian Tribe and a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and
- WHEREAS**, the Band Assembly is empowered by 3 MLBSA § 2(d) to adopt resolutions to promote the general welfare of the people of the Band; and
- WHEREAS**, the Chief Executive of the Band is empowered by 4 MLBSA § 6 to exercise the Executive Branch powers of the Band; and
- WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the Band that each person has an inalienable right to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of air, water, land and other natural resources located within the jurisdiction of the Band and that each person has a legal duty to aid in the protection, preservation and enhancement of air, water, land and other natural resources located within the jurisdiction of the Band, so that all human beings may live in harmony with nature (11 MLBSA § 1(e)), and
- WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the Band to enact environmental protection measures which shall, at a minimum equal the environmental protection laws of the United States of America and, if necessary and prudent, exceed the minimum standards established by federal law (11 MLBSA § 1(f); and
- WHEREAS**, North Dakota Pipeline LLC (“Enbridge”) is attempting to obtain permission from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to construct the Sandpiper pipeline utilizing a route that passes near the lands of the Band – namely Minisinaakwaang, Minnewawa, and Big Sandy communities, and threatens the Big Sandy Lake and Rice Lake watersheds, in which Band members and their ancestors have gathered wild rice (“Manoomin”) and harvested other natural resources for generations; and
- WHEREAS**, Enbridge has been responsible for more than 800 spills in the United States and Canada between 1999 – 2010, totaling almost 7 million gallons of oil causing catastrophic damage to surface and ground water, wildlife, fish, and natural resources; and

DISTRICT I

43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-4181 • Fax (320) 532-4209

DISTRICT II

36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (218) 768-3903

DISTRICT IIA

2605 Chiminising Drive • Isle, MN 56342
(320) 676-1102 • Fax (320) 676-3432

DISTRICT III

45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072
(320) 384-6240 • Fax (320) 384-6190

URBAN OFFICE

1404 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 872-1424 • Fax (612) 872-1257

WHEREAS, there has been no government-to-government consultation with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources or the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to identify lands of historical, archeological, and cultural significance on or near the proposed Sandpiper route, which is in violation of Executive Order 13-10 signed by Governor Mark Dayton; and

WHEREAS, the supplemental Environmental Information Report and the Minnesota Department of Commerce submitted by Enbridge does not discuss the impacts that pipeline construction and operation could have on Manoomin waters or other natural resources of critical importance to the Band; and

WHEREAS, ground-disturbing activity related to pipeline construction and maintenance could lead to harmful changes, including but not limited to water levels, water chemistry, water turbidity, and increased sedimentation within the Manoomin waters of the Big Sandy Lake and Rice Lake watersheds, and


WHEREAS, Manoomin holds extraordinary cultural significance to the Anishinaabe peoples and is a sacred life-giving medicinal food that the Band has a duty to protect and preserve.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe requests that appropriate federal and state agencies conduct comprehensive Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements for the proposed route and viable alternatives that includes a thorough analysis of impacts that all potential pipeline routes will have on Manoomin, and

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe opposes the proposed southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline project under consideration by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and requests that it instead consider established corridors outside of the Big Sandy Lake and Rice Lake watersheds as alternative routes.


WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing resolution was duly concurred with and adopted at a regular session of the Band Assembly in Legislative Council assembled, a quorum of legislators being present held on the 15th day of January, 2015 at Vineland, Minnesota by a vote of 3 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Band Assembly hereunto cause to have set the signature of the Speaker of the Assembly to be affixed to this resolution and forwarded to the Chief Executive for Concurrence.



Carolyn Beaulieu, Speaker of the Assembly

IN CONCURRENCE, with the action of the Speaker of the Assembly, I set my hand to this resolution.



Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive

OFFICAL SEAL OF THE BAND