

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2305

February 5th, 2019

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
180 5th Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express my opposition to Enbridge, Inc.'s pending permits for the proposed Line 3 Replacement Pipeline Project. Due to the expected impacts to the fragile wetland ecosystem, the threat of substantial increases in carbon emissions and opposition from Tribal governments, I urge the Army Corps of Engineers to deny these permits.

As stated in the Army Corps' project summary, the proposed Line 3 Replacement Pipeline would temporarily impact more than 1,000 acres of wetland and permanently impact 10 acres. This disruption would be detrimental to 17 unique wild rice waterbodies, which are not able to immediately rebound following construction. Additionally, my constituents have raised related construction concerns associated with a large influx of both people and temporary infrastructure that would be associated with this project. That level of impact is unjustified by the purported economic benefits.

It's also important to note that the estimated impact at the beginning of a project like this is often far below the real damage that's done by the completion date, as evidenced by Enbridge's safety record. Between 1999 and 2010, the company was found to have amassed over 800 spills and was sued by multiple states for failing to adequately inspect and operate their pipelines. The Line 3 Replacement Pipeline Project would cross 211 water bodies, including the Mississippi River two separate times. It would be irresponsible to open our communities and our environment up to the ever-present risk of a catastrophic oil spill by allowing this project to move forward.

Additionally, ACOE should consider the impact this project would have on the climate crisis. Minnesota is one of the fastest-warming states, and our ecosystems are already facing extreme pressure from warmer winters, hotter summers, irregular precipitation, and more severe weather. The Line 3 Replacement Pipeline Project would nearly double the volume of tar sands crude oil coming into Minnesota, which is a dangerous investment to make when almost all climate scientists are calling for an immediate and permanent reduction in fossil fuel use. Importing even more tar sands would make it impossible for the State of Minnesota to meet its statutory carbon reduction targets, and it would also deprive further generations of a livable planet.

Lastly, the project would have disproportionate and adverse impacts on Indigenous communities, as stated in Enbridge's own environmental impact statement. Yet the company has done nothing to adequately address the Line 3 Replacement Pipeline Project threats to Indigenous peoples, lands and treaty rights. I urge the ACOE to respect our nation's treaties and honor the principle of Indigenous sovereignty by rejecting the permits

Thank you for your prompt attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress