ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

BILL NO. 54-17

INTRODUCED BY: Greenleaf SECONDED BY: Zarzycki

A RESOLUTION TO: Support the Decommissioning of the Line 5 Pipeline Owned by Enbridge Carrying Crude Oil Beneath the Straits of Mackinac,

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, Every day Line 5 (64-year-old pipelines owned by Enbridge) transports nearly 23 million gallons of oil underneath the Straits of Mackinac, and according to a 2014 University of Michigan study it is the “worst possible place” for an oil spill in the Great Lakes since over 15% of Lake Michigan’s and 60% of Lake Huron’s water would be immediately affected; and,

WHEREAS, The quality and quantity of the Great Lakes are of high concern since they contain 20% of the world’s surface fresh water available, and is a drinking water source for over 35 million people, apart from providing 1.5 million regional jobs; and,

WHEREAS, Enbridge Inc. has been responsible for 1,244 reportable oil spills, leaks and releases from 1996 to 2013; including the second worst and most expensive oil spill in U.S. history when Line 6b ruptured near Kalamazoo in 2010 and a pinhole leak in a section of the pipeline north of the Straits in December 2014; and was in violation of their spacing requirements of its 1953 easement for Line 5 in 2014; and,


5 Food & Water Watch data analysis of Enbridge company-wide reportable spills, leaks and releases. Data can be found in Addendum to Enbridge’s 2013 Corporate Social Responsibility Report, at 2 and 3; Enbridge 2010 Corporate Social Responsibility Report at 84; Enbridge 2006 Corporate Social Responsibility Report at 29; Enbridge 2001 Environment, Health & Safety Report at 10

6 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Fact Sheet.] “Oil Cleanup Continues on Kalamazoo River.” June 2013

WHEREAS, Line 5 was built before the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act was adopted so it did not have to obtain a permit to ensure that the pipeline would not pose a threat to the waters or the public's use of the waters; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette has stated that "the pipeline's days are numbered"; and the Coast Guard Commandant testified before congress in 2015 that the Coast Guard would be unable to respond effectively to an open water oil spill in the heart of the Great Lakes; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan State University plays a key role in researching, advising, and providing community training on the health of water resources and the Great Lakes through the Institute of Water Research, Michigan Sea Grant, Center for Water Sciences, MSU Water Science Network, a new $20 million grant within the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, and participation in the North Central Region Water Network; and,

WHEREAS, The threat that Line 5 poses to the water quality and surrounding economy of the Great Lakes runs counter to the spirit of Michigan State University's research and sustainability commitments and values;

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University empowers the Governmental Affairs office to lobby within their respective efforts for decommissioning of Line 5.

INTRODUCED ON November 30, 2017

REFERRED TO Policy COMMITTEE ON November 30, 2017

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN Sent to GA DATE November 30, 2017

COMMITTEE ACTION X Voice-Majority VOTE DATE November 30, 2017

FINAL ACTION TAKEN X Voice-Majority VOTE DATE December 7, 2017

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PRESIDENT VPIA


