

## MN AFL-CIO L3R Resolution

- Whereas Line 3 is a more than 50 year-old pipeline that transports crude oil from the North Dakota border to terminals in Clearbrook, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin along a route that currently crosses the Leech Lake and Fond du Lac Reservations; and
- Whereas the deteriorated state of the existing Line 3 pipeline has resulted in the pipeline operating at half of its rated capacity, forcing oil shipments onto rail lines, and requiring continual maintenance work to permit safe operation; and
- Whereas Enbridge proposes to invest \$2.1 billion to replace Line 3 with a new and safer pipeline along a route that will avoid the Leech Lake Reservation;
- Whereas Enbridge has committed to build the entire project using skilled union labor under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Union of Operating Engineers, Laborers International Union of North America, and United Association of of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing, Pipefitting, and Sprinkler Fitting Industry;
- Whereas Line 3 would be the first pipeline and the largest project of any kind ever built in Minnesota under a PLA;
- Whereas the Line 3 Replacement project has been the subject of vigorous public debate and a multi-year permitting process that has included dozens of public and fact-finding hearings in which thousands of Minnesotans have participated, including many union members; and
- Whereas the project has generated widely differing opinions among unions and union members, just as it has generated widely differing opinions among other stakeholders, including Northern Minnesota communities and their residents; and
- Whereas proponents assert that the project will reduce the risk of spills, including spills within environmentally sensitive areas and sovereign tribal land, by replacing a deteriorating pipeline and reducing reliance on rail transport -- which is associated with higher incidence and volume of spills on a per-barrel basis -- with no meaningful impact on greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Whereas opponents of the Line 3 Replacement assert that the project will increase the risk of spills, impact environmental resources in treaty-ceded territories, and accelerate climate change; and
- Whereas despite these disagreements, the Minnesota AFL-CIO is united in recognizing the need to safeguard Minnesota's abundant environmental resources, take action to halt climate change, respect the sovereignty of tribal nations, protect the safety and dignity of workers and the people of Minnesota, defend the free speech rights of all, and

create badly-needed opportunities for high-quality employment and economic development in Northern Minnesota; and

- Whereas the Minnesota AFL-CIO recognizes that reducing carbon emissions associated with the transportation sector will not be achieved by halting pipeline construction, but will instead require the development and deployment of low- and zero-emission vehicles and associated infrastructure; and
- Whereas the legal authority to approve or deny the project rests with Minnesota's independent Public Utilities Commission and courts; and
- Whereas we anticipate that if the project is approved by the Commission, and allowed to proceed by the courts, opponents may choose to exercise their constitutionally-protected free speech rights to protest the decision and the project; and
- Whereas past pipeline protests have created conditions in which construction workers believe that the actions of protesters risked their safety and livelihood, while protesters believe that their free speech rights were curtailed; and
- Whereas the protection of free speech is essential to freedom and democracy, and specifically to the right of workers to exercise power in the workplace and to collectively bargain for fair wages and working conditions; and
- Whereas the Line 3 Replacement project is expected to provide family-supporting employment to thousands of union construction workers, of whom the majority are expected to be local residents; and
- Whereas all workers have a right to dignity and a safe workplace free from violence, harassment and intimidation; and
- Whereas the stress resulting from threats, harassment, intimidation, frequent work stoppages could make it more difficult for workers to properly perform their assigned tasks and increase the risk of mistakes that compromise the safety of workers or the integrity of the pipeline; and
- Whereas union workers who hope to build the pipeline, if approved, have already been targeted by offensive and unsupported allegations that their mere presence poses a threat to the safety of area residents.

Therefore be it resolved that:

- The Minnesota AFL-CIO believes all workers have a right to dignity and a safe workplace free from violence, harassment and intimidation, and we also believe that protection of free speech is essential to the right of workers to exercise power in the workplace and to collectively bargain for fair wages and working conditions and protect and strengthen our democracy.

- The Minnesota AFL-CIO calls on all parties to refrain from tactics that could prevent Line 3 protesters from lawfully and safely exercising their free speech rights, prevent union workers from lawfully and safely performing their assigned tasks, or otherwise jeopardize the safety of workers or members of the public. Examples of such tactics include but are not limited to vandalism, destruction or tampering with equipment; and unauthorized entrance onto the right-of-way while construction is in progress.
- The Minnesota AFL-CIO calls on all parties, along with our elected representatives and allies, to promote respectful dialogue, and to both refrain from and speak out against attempts to demonize protesters, pipeline workers or law enforcement, including rhetoric suggesting that the mere presence of protesters or pipeline workers poses a threat to the safety or well-being of area residents. The Minnesota AFL-CIO will initiate this call by sending copies of the adopted Resolution to local, state, and Federal elected officials.
- The Minnesota AFL-CIO supports the appropriate exercise of state and local authority to safeguard the legal rights of all parties, and to ensure that disputes over the project do not jeopardize the safety and well-being of any party or area residents who have no connection to the project.
- The Minnesota AFL-CIO supports sensible efforts by the Walz Administration, the State Legislature, and the Public Utilities Commission to address the root causes of concerns raised during the Line 3 Permitting process, including support for deployment of low- and zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure to address transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions while creating high-quality jobs for local union members, and efforts to strengthen and expand the tribal consultation process.