



Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 28, 2015

Contact: Elizabeth Ward, Sierra Club (608) 445-4489

Conservation Congress Results Show Statewide Support for Tar Sands Pipeline Oversight

WISCONSIN: Results from the citizen resolutions introduced at the 2015 Conservation Congress Spring Hearing, held on April 13 have been tabulated and are in. The Department of Natural Resources results can be using the link "2015 Citizen Resolution Results" at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>

Resolutions calling for increased oversight and environmental impact review on the Line 61 pipeline expansion and any new tar sands pipelines were introduced in 18 counties across Wisconsin. **The resolution passed overwhelmingly, with 86% voting in favor (1108-161).** The resolutions passed in Adams, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jefferson, Lincoln, Marquette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pierce, Rock, St. Croix, Sawyer, Vernon, and Walworth counties.

"The results of this effort show that Wisconsinites want the Department of Natural Resources to do their job and fully analyze the risks and potential impacts of the influx of tar sands pipelines traveling through Wisconsin," said Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator for the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter. Ward continued, "Conservation Congress attendees use Wisconsin's natural resources for pleasure and sustenance. These tar sands pipelines directly threaten these land and water resources."

"I am proud of my community and the recognition of the threat the tar sands pipeline poses to our water resources," stated Ronni Monroe, a concerned community member near the pipeline in Lake Mills, who introduced the tar sands resolution at the Jefferson Hearing. She continued, "We are blessed to have the Rock River, Lake Koshkonong, and other critical waterways like it—these provide recreational areas, fishing opportunities, and create the overall quality of life we all live here for."

Last year, Enbridge announced plans to triple the amount of tar sands oil that would flow through the Line 61 pipeline and the Department of Natural Resources opted not to do an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment on the proposal. Enbridge has also discussed plans to add additional pipelines through Wisconsin.

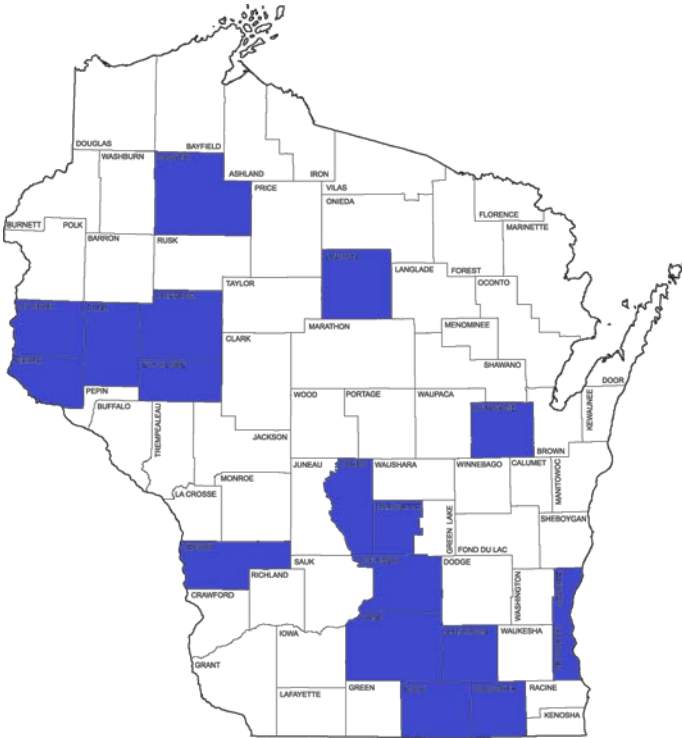
Results and resolution language on back.

###

Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance is a coalition of community members, leaders, and organizations concerned about the safety, land, and environmental threats posed by proposals to expand tar sands throughout Wisconsin, especially along Enbridge's Line 61 tar sands pipeline.

--MORE--

Results Breakdown:



County	Pass	Fail	Total	Ave
Adams	15	3	18	83%
Chippewa	25	16	41	61%
Columbia	52	6	58	90%
Dane	191	20	211	91%
Dunn	40	3	43	93%
Eau Claire	51	4	55	93%
Jefferson	54	12	66	82%
Lincoln	27	9	36	75%
Marquette	39	2	41	95%
Milwaukee	115	18	133	86%
Outagamie	68	10	78	87%
Ozaukee	40	13	53	75%
Pierce	34	8	42	81%
Rock	63	6	69	91%
St. Croix	21	17	38	55%
Sawyer	36	4	40	90%
Vernon	26	3	29	90%
Walworth	53	4	57	93%
Total:	950	158	1108	86%

Resolution Language:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEWS ON TAR SANDS PIPELINES— WHEREAS Enbridge Energy Corp., a Canadian company, is currently using Pipeline 61 to transport tar sands “dilbit,” heavy crude oil diluted with toxic chemicals through a pipeline running from Superior to Delevan, Wisconsin and then to northern Illinois where it is processed and shipped out. Enbridge proposes to triple the pressure and flow of oil from the current 400,000 to 1.2 million barrels per day, exceeding the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, without any increased safeguards. Enbridge also plans another pipeline which would run alongside Line 61. These tar sands pipelines run under or through major rivers including the Wisconsin, Rock, Flambeau, Namekagon and Nemadji and wetlands at the headwaters of the St. Croix and Brule, among others. Enbridge has experienced over 800 pipeline leaks and spills since 1999 including the largest tar sands spill in U.S. history, impacting the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. Tar sands, unlike traditional oil, sinks in water; five years later, the Kalamazoo river has not been successfully restored and costs have exceeded \$1 Billion. A major spill of sinking dilbit and the chemicals it contains, including carcinogenic benzene, into a wetland or waterway would be disastrous for fisheries and wildlife habitat. Jefferson, Dane, Wood, Walworth, Adams, and Rock Counties have passed resolutions asking the DNR to hold public hearings on Enbridge’s pipeline expansion.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the DNR should conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement process on the risks of the Pipeline 61 expansion with public hearings throughout Wisconsin before allowing Enbridge to construct any new pipelines.