



# *Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Whitewater Joins Communities Concerned about Tar Sands Threat in Wisconsin**

**WHITEWATER:** Yesterday, the Whitewater joined the list of communities calling on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to review the impacts of the tar sands pipelines flowing through Wisconsin. The Whitewater Common Council made preliminary vote last night to pass a resolution calling on the DNR to do a full environmental analysis on Enbridge's proposed tar sand pipeline expansions in Wisconsin.

"A potential rupture in an Enbridge tar sands pipeline becomes an issue of public safety and the welfare of the citizens of this community in addition to a serious threat to our environment and groundwater systems. I consider it my job as a Councilmember to make sure that the citizens of the City of Whitewater and first-responders to the scene of a potential spill are not being subject to any health risks as a result of the expansion of these pipelines and their unknown chemical contents," said Sarah Bregant, Common Council member and sponsor of the resolution. "As a City, we voted tonight to ask the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to do a full environmental impact statement on any Enbridge pipeline expansions and for Enbridge to hold further public hearings on the matter and disclose the contents of what runs through their network of pipelines."

This comes one week after the Walworth County Board passed a similar resolution last Tuesday, October 14. Walworth is the fourth county to pass a resolution calling for environmental review of the tar sands pipelines, along with Wood, Jefferson, and Dane Counties.

Whitewater resident, Lynn Shoemaker, said, "Enbridge has announced plans to increase Line 61 and build an additional line. The residents of Whitewater, Walworth County and all of Wisconsin have a right to know what this means for our farmlands, waterways, and neighborhoods. All we want is the assurance that if something does happen, our first responders and other emergency personnel are able to take care of us."

"Tar sands oil is very different from traditional 'light' oil, making the potential for a spill and the concerns worse. Tar sands oil is dense, so if there is a contamination in a waterway, it does not float, making clean-up much more difficult. Additionally, it must be mixed with a caustic chemical compound to move it through pipelines, increasing the likelihood of a rupture," explained Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator for the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, "these massive pipelines are scary and we all have a right to be concerned about what it could mean for the safety and well-being of our friends, family, and the community."

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*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 the Line 61 tar sands pipeline.*