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*Ashland Bayfield Counties*  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

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April 9, 2020

Enbridge Line 3 Comments  
MPCA  
520 Lafayette Rd. N.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Line 3 Replacement Project (L3RP)

To Whom It May Concern:

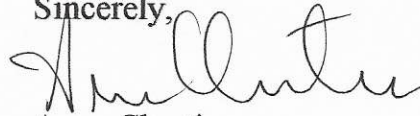
We are writing with respect to Enbridge Energy's proposal to construct a new pipeline to transport tar sands oil from Edmonton, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. The adverse environmental impacts of this project, if it is permitted, would be far ranging and serious, from the dangers of a spill in northern waters, to exacerbation of climate change, the gravest environmental challenge facing us all. At a time when we need to be transitioning to green energy sources as quickly as possible, we should not be expanding the fossil fuel infrastructure with ill-conceived projects like a Line 3 rebuild in Minnesota and a Line 5 reroute in Wisconsin.

The League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (LWW/ABC) has voiced its opposition to Line 5 in Wisconsin because we have long supported the preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment, as well as the stewardship of land as a finite resource, particularly fragile lands and waters, such as Lake Superior and its watershed, where discharges from oil pipelines could result in irreversible harm. The predicted number of leaks and spills over the life-span of the Line 3 project would inevitably result in damage to streams, wetlands, lakes and aquifers. There should be a geologic assessment of the increased risk of spills due to climate change. Minnesota, like Wisconsin, is forecasted to have more megastorms, which will cause streams and rivers to have more frequent and more intense floods. These higher frequency flood flows can expose buried pipelines and lead to ruptures and spills which result in severe environmental damage.

The LWV/ABC also opposes Enbridge's oil pipelines because of our respect for indigenous peoples in the region. The League recognizes the special status of Native Americans, including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians and supports respect for Tribal sovereignty and treaty rights in regard to water resources. We believe the native communities of Northern Minnesota, and the natural resources on which they depend, such as wild rice beds, are equally deserving of respect.

For these reasons, we hope Minnesota's state agencies will consider the potentially catastrophic impacts of their decision on whether to approve this pipeline, and will not issue the requested permits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anne Chartier', written in black ink.

Anne Chartier

President, League of Women Voters  
of Ashland and Bayfield Counties