



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

May 10, 2021

Office of the Chairman  
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians  
15484 Migizi Drive  
Red Lake, MN 56671

Office of the Chairman  
White Earth Band of Ojibwe  
35500 Eagle View Road  
Ogema, MN 56569

Chief Executive Office  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

*Re: Supporting Tribal Sovereignty and the efforts to halt construction of the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline*

Dear *Honorable Chairman Darrell G. Seki Sr.* (Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians), *Honorable Chairman Michael Fairbanks* (White Earth Band of Ojibwe), and *Honorable Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin* (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe),

The Seattle City Council is in support of your efforts to halt construction of the tar sands Line 3 pipeline in order to protect cultural resources and a way of life from the increased risk of an oil spill which could do irreparable harm to manoomin, medicinal plants, culturally significant areas, and other aquatic resources across your territory.

Line 3 is a proposed pipeline expansion to bring nearly a million barrels of tar sands per day from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. If built, it would be one of the largest pipelines in the world. Line 3 was first proposed in 2014 by Enbridge, a Canadian pipeline company responsible for the largest inland oil spill in the US. Enbridge seeks to build a new pipeline corridor through untouched wetlands and the treaty territory of Anishinaabe peoples, through the Mississippi River headwaters to the shore of Lake Superior.

Also, as we saw with the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Enbridge did not engage in meaningful consultation, nor obtained the consent, with the governments of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, White Earth Band of Ojibwe, and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Nations for the construction of the Line 3 pipeline. Because the pipeline crosses tribal nations land, not engaging in consultation and failing to obtain tribal consent directly violates tribal sovereignty as affirmed by the US Constitution.

Further, we are concerned for the health and safety of Native American and First Nation's women due to "man camps" that accompany large extractive projects. As documented in Canada's inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women [MMIW], fossil fuel extractive sites and the construction of pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure projects serve as locations that amplify the trafficking of Indigenous women and girls leading to high rates of MMIW.

Lastly, we are concerned over the impact the Line 3 pipeline would have on our climate. Based on the amount of oil Line 3 would move, its construction would equal that of building 50 new coal power plants. The climate crisis is a concern felt by those around the globe and we feel that it is imperative we work to move away from fossil fuels and move towards a greenhouse gas free and renewable energy driven future.



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Sincerely,

Seattle City Council

Council President M. Lorena González

Councilmember Debra Juarez (Blackfeet)

Councilmember Lisa Herbold

Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis

Councilmember Tammy J. Morales

Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

Councilmember Alex Pedersen

Councilmember Kshama Sawant

Councilmember Dan Strauss

cc:

*PaaWee Rivera (Pueblo of Pojoaque), Director of Tribal Affairs for the Biden Administration | The White House*