LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
MINNESOTA

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March 4, 2014

RECEIVED
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MAILROOM

Mr. Larry Hartman
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place E. Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: PUC Docket # 13-474

Dear Mr. Hartman,

Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership, which is doing business as North Dakota Pipeline Co., has applied to the state of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for permission to construct and operate a new crude oil pipeline: the Sandpiper Pipeline. PUC Docket # 13-474.

This Sandpiper Pipeline, scheduled to begin construction in 2015 if all permits are granted, would carry 375,000 barrels of light sweet crude oil per day from the Bakken Shale Oil formation in North Dakota across Minnesota to an Enbridge shipping terminal in Superior, WI. A significant portion of the Sandpiper Crude Oil Pipeline's proposed route crosses the Mississippi River immediately below Itasca State Park and also near many of the highest quality lakes and marshes in Minnesota and Hubbard County as well as crossing the already compromised Straight River aquifer and several trout streams including the Straight River Trout stream.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has scheduled public meetings, hearings, and a public comment period on this proposed Sandpiper Pipeline that will end on April 4, 2014. Many local Hubbard County landowners who would be very interested in learning more about the pipeline route and need, as well as alternatives to the route and how lakes, marshes, and streams of concern to them might be affected by this proposed pipeline, are seasonal or summer residents. They are either unaware of the proposed route and/or unable to fully gain from the public meetings as well as from consultation with neighbors and other interested parties.

The League of Women Voters Minnesota believes that citizens have a right to know what their government is doing and to participate in government decision making. We believe that a democratic government depends on informed citizens, active at all levels of government.

As most seasonal residents in the Park Rapids area do not return until May, we would therefore request that meetings be offered in June and July so that all citizens may be a part of this process. Likewise, we would ask that the public comment period be extended to August 1st to allow people who are landowners in this area to offer their comments.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Again, we ask that public meetings be increased in number and offered on later dates, and that the comment period also be extended to August 1.

Sincerely,

Susan Sheridan Tucker

Susan Sheridan Tucker
Executive Director

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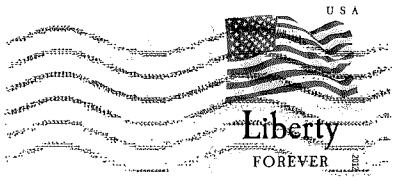

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