

1
2
3
4
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8
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10
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14
15
16
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SCOPING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING
MCGREGOR - MAY 11, 2016 - 10:00 A.M.
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of the Application of North Dakota Pipeline Company, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota

PUC DOCKET NO: CN-13-473

In the Matter of the Application of North Dakota Pipeline Company, LLC for a Pipeline Routing Permit for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota

PUC DOCKET NO: PPL-13-474

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for a Certificate of Need for the Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project in Minnesota from the North Dakota Border to the Wisconsin Border

PUC DOCKET NO: CN-14-916

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for a Route Permit for the Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project in Minnesota from the North Dakota Border to the Wisconsin Border

PUC DOCKET NO: PPL-15-137

East Lake Community Center
36666 State Highway 65
McGregor, Minnesota

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

I N D E X - McGregor

	SPEAKER	PAGE
1		
2		
3	Michael Neaton	4
4	Jamie MacAlister	10
5	John Munter	19
6	Bob Munneke	22
7	Steve Roe	25
8	Janet Hill	29
9	Susan Klapel	34
10	Robert Shaw	36
11	Vicki Bibeau	37
12	James Reents	42
13	Harvey Goodsky	45
14	Sandra Skinaway	46
15	Jean Ross	49
16	Kathy Hollander	52
17	Ryan Gapske	57
18	Frank Bibeau	59
19	Jeff Sheldon	62
20	Vicki Andrews	63
21	Tom Watson	67
22	Tania Aubid	73
23	Veronica Skinaway	76
24	Audrey Tsinnie	79
25	Michaa Aubid	83

1	Patrick Wussow	87
2	Korey Northrup	88
3	Scott Cramer	91
4	Phillip Wallace	92
5	Debra Topping	96
6	Keenan Gonzales	98
7	Lynn Mizner	102
8	David Aubid	105
9	Terry Kemper	107
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 (Private comment.)

2 MR. MICHAEL NEATON: I'm Michael P.
3 Neaton, N-E-A-T-O-N. A Minneapolis resident and a
4 member of vote-climate.org.

5 So looking at immediate issues, Line 3
6 has been leaking for years and needs to be removed
7 and the soil repaired. Often the soil is damaged as
8 deep as 15 feet and the water table is shallow. We
9 have great concern about the water being vulnerable
10 from any of these pipelines, which have shown a long
11 history of leaking.

12 Second, I have offered this concern
13 before in other testimonies, and that is that both
14 pipelines and rail cars are easy targets for
15 terrorist behavior. No matter what is the reason
16 for such behavior, any mayhem of this size would be
17 devastating. It was a retired military personnel,
18 last name Cooper, who oversaw the Iraq pipelines for
19 10 years. He stated that -- and tested the theory
20 by going to pipelines and being able to be
21 uninterrupted while carrying a small package equal
22 to a four-pound bomb. That bomb, if it had been a
23 real bomb, and placed, could cause equal to the
24 Valdez oil spill on land.

25 There is also great concern about the

1 100-car explosive Bakken oil stationed all through
2 metropolitan areas. Transferring oil is dangerous
3 and very vulnerable.

4 In conclusion, we need to look at even a
5 bigger picture. And that picture is that at this
6 point the industry is losing demand. Minnesota
7 alone has reduced oil consumption by 20 percent.
8 The industry is going to be phased out as an energy
9 source. We are at a turning point much like once
10 trains were being replaced by airplanes. It is
11 important that we realize clean energy is needed for
12 the sake of our health, with externalities presently
13 at 2.8 billion -- excuse me, 2.1 billion, my
14 mistake, annually as a cost to Minnesota residents
15 alone. Also, at present we have enough oil to
16 cripple the ecosystem and cause a collapse that we
17 will never be able to return from.

18 If we do not break from oil, the future
19 of all generations is completely at peril, and this
20 is identified by 98 percent of the world's climate
21 scientists. These are the people who predicted
22 things and everything is coming true.

23 We need to look beyond the simple concern
24 of a single pipeline, but it is important for this
25 discussion that it is part of a very serious

1 overriding concern for the ecosystem as well.

2 Thanks.

3 (Public meeting.)

4 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: We are going to get
5 started. We are going to get started.

6 Good morning, everyone. It's great to
7 see a big crowd here.

8 My name is Barb Tuckner, I have been
9 subcontracted with the Department of Commerce to
10 moderate this meeting. And my job is to, with your
11 help, hold the space so that all the voices can be
12 heard today.

13 So just to give you a process overview,
14 what we are going to do is we are going to move into
15 a presentation, very brief, put context around all
16 of this. And what you might hear several times this
17 morning is the purpose of this meeting. It's not a
18 hearing, it's a meeting, it's a scoping meeting.
19 The Department of Commerce is very interested in
20 hearing from you about what should be in the
21 environmental impact statement.

22 So we're asking you to tailor your
23 comments accordingly. And, of course, you can
24 express whatever opinion you have about the project
25 as well. But that is really going to be most

1 helpful because ultimately the environmental impact
2 statement will be developed and that will be the
3 driver for the decision-making process.

4 So before we get into introductions of
5 other people in the room here, I wanted to just go
6 through some ground rules, they're posted up here on
7 the wall and other places as well. And again, as I
8 said, with your help to hold the space so that all
9 opinions can be heard and all recommendations can be
10 made.

11 We absolutely know that there's all sorts
12 of opinions about this project in the room today and
13 we want to hear from you regarding all of that.

14 So we're asking people to be respectful
15 and patient and allow people to express their
16 thoughts and recommendations. And related to that,
17 underneath that we're asking people not to
18 interrupt. And there's a real practical reason for
19 that. We have a court reporter here today, Janet
20 will be taking notes as we speak and for the record,
21 so she has to be able to hear what people are saying
22 in order to do that.

23 And then related to that is to be quiet
24 and so forth and don't obstruct other's view so that
25 they can also hear the speaker.

1 We're also asking that you manage your
2 phone, whatever that means. Mute it, throw it out,
3 whatever. Shut it off. That would be very helpful.

4 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. I'm a guilty
5 person.

6 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: She's a guilty
7 person, Janet is, she has to turn her's off.

8 All right. And then my job also is to,
9 when people come up and speak, I will time you in as
10 gentle a way as I can and keep the comments moving
11 along. As of now we have 17 or 18 people that have
12 signed up to speak.

13 And what we know in this is that people
14 are moved to speak even if they haven't put in a
15 green card, if you will, a presenter's card, and
16 what our process will allow for you to do is if you
17 want to come up after the people who have signed up,
18 if you want to do that, you're welcome to do so. If
19 there's time we'll just keep at it. Okay.
20 Regardless, we have to be here until 1:00.

21 I also want to point out that there's
22 some state employees in the room here today that are
23 here to answer your questions.

24 We have people -- I'm going to have them
25 just wave, stand up and make note, and so you might

1 right now position your body towards the back of the
2 room if you don't want to hurt your neck.

3 We have people here from the Public
4 Utilities Commission. Could you let us know where
5 you are? Okay, he's in the back of the room if you
6 have comments for him. Stand up one more time, it
7 didn't happen quick enough. Thank you.

8 We also have people from the Department
9 of Natural Resources. Where are you folks? Two
10 people waving in the back.

11 We have people from the Minnesota
12 Pollution Control Agency. Where are you? Two
13 people over there.

14 We have people from Commerce, the
15 Department of Commerce. And where are they? Here
16 and here.

17 And then we also have people from
18 Enbridge here that can help you with questions
19 regarding right-of-way, construction, and easement.

20 All right. So I think that's it for now.
21 I'll come back in just a bit and let you know how
22 the process works around the speakers, but right now
23 I'm going to turn the microphone over to Jamie
24 MacAlister. She's the Environmental Review Manager
25 at the Department of Commerce and she's going to,

1 like I said, present with using the PowerPoint
2 slides that are in your yellow folder, she'll go
3 through the context associated with this project.

4 Jamie.

5 MS. JAMIE MACALISTER: Thank you, Barb.
6 Good morning, everyone.

7 First, I would like to thank everyone for
8 coming, it's good to see so many faces here. And
9 now I would like to apologize for the coffee crisis,
10 no one is more disappointed than I am. So we hope
11 to have some more coffee on the way. We didn't
12 realize there would be a run on it so quickly.

13 First, I would like to go through the
14 contents of your yellow folder. I hope everyone was
15 able to grab one of those on your way in.

16 So in your folder you should have a copy
17 of this presentation. And the critical aspect of
18 this is that all of my contact information is on the
19 last page. So if nothing else, hang on to this so
20 you know how to get in touch with me.

21 You should also have a comment form in
22 there which you can fill out and leave with us now
23 or take home and fill out at your leisure and send
24 it in.

25 There's also some guidance on how to

1 suggest an alternative. Again, I would encourage
2 everyone who would like to submit an alternative to
3 do so. And the guidance that we have there is
4 really to make sure that we're able to capture your
5 intent in what you are trying to propose.

6 There's also some alternative evaluation
7 criteria, which we hope you will use to either give
8 us feedback on or to use to give us some comments
9 here today.

10 As well as a preliminary table of
11 contents. And the preliminary table of contents is,
12 in part, to let you know what we're thinking of in
13 terms of presenting the information in the EIS, as
14 well as to potentially provide you with an
15 opportunity to provide more information or context
16 around some of the issues that are there. So if you
17 see that there is something missing that you think
18 we need to add, we would love to have that
19 information. If there's something on that list that
20 you think needs to be fleshed out more, we want that
21 information as well.

22 And, lastly, you should have a couple of
23 maps. One showing the route alternatives that have
24 been developed over the last couple of years of
25 scoping for these projects. And the other map shows

1 the system alternatives that were developed during
2 the Sandpiper proceedings. And we have retained the
3 system alternatives nomenclature, as there are a
4 number of people that are attached to a specific
5 system alternative and that's how they refer to it.
6 So all of these system alternatives and route
7 alternatives are currently under consideration.

8 So if you're missing any of this
9 information from your folders, please see Natalie at
10 the front table, the sign-in table where you came
11 in, she'll get them for you. Or if you would like
12 to take some to your friends, she can give you
13 extras as well.

14 So when you come up, for those of you
15 that have filled out speaker cards, if you could
16 please state and spell your name for Janet, she
17 would appreciate that. And if you don't, she will
18 kindly remind you to do so.

19 I have to switch sides here, I don't like
20 being by the speaker.

21 All right. So we are here this morning
22 for the scoping meetings for the Sandpiper -- the
23 proposed Sandpiper pipeline project and the Line 3
24 replacement project. And as you probably know,
25 these are two separate projects and they have

1 different I.D. numbers for the route and the
2 certificate of need. So these meetings are to help
3 us identify the contents of the environmental impact
4 statement. There will be an environmental impact
5 statement for each project covering the certificate
6 of need and the route permit.

7 As you might imagine, there is a lot of
8 regulation that surrounds these projects. That
9 includes the statutes and rules for the certificate
10 of need, the statutes and rules for the routing of
11 the pipelines, as well as Minnesota Rules 4410 that
12 will be used to develop the environmental impact
13 statement for these projects.

14 Once the environmental impact statement
15 process has concluded, there will be contested case
16 hearings that will be presided over by an
17 administrative law judge. There will be one for
18 each project. I should say there will be a series
19 of contested case hearings for each project.

20 The scoping process is very important to
21 us because it helps us to identify issues and
22 concerns that you feel are necessary to be covered
23 in the environmental impact statement. It also
24 allows everyone the opportunity to participate in
25 the development of route and segment alternatives,

1 if you're so inclined to do so. And all of this
2 information will help us develop the final scope
3 that will be presented to the Public Utilities
4 Commission and that will ultimately determine the
5 information that's analyzed in the EIS.

6 There have been a lot of scoping meetings
7 for these projects. There were scoping meetings for
8 Sandpiper, there were scoping meetings last summer
9 for Line 3. So this is round three of scoping
10 meetings. And as we have gone through these
11 meetings, there are some overarching issues that we
12 have heard. And those include spills, ground and
13 surface water concerns, wild rice and tribal
14 resource concerns, jobs and local economies,
15 pipeline decommissioning, and climate change.

16 So as we have worked with the public and
17 other interested parties, tribal governments, local,
18 state, and federal agencies, we're really here to
19 ask is there anything that we've overlooked. Is
20 there something missing that you feel that we need
21 to account for.

22 I want to just quickly go over what the
23 EIS process will look like. We are here at the
24 information and scoping meetings. I hope everyone
25 has had an opportunity and taken the time to talk

1 with the resource staff that are here to answer your
2 questions and provide you information.

3 We will then be preparing, as I
4 mentioned, a final scoping decision, which will be
5 approved by the Public Utilities Commission. And
6 once that has been approved there will be an EIS
7 preparation notice. And that will trigger 280 days,
8 in which we have to complete these EISs.

9 There will be a draft EIS, which will be
10 followed by draft EIS public meetings, so we will do
11 another tour of meetings to talk about the draft
12 EIS. There will be a final EIS, and the PUC will
13 make a determination of adequacy. And once that
14 occurs, the projects will move into the contested
15 case hearing phase, which will provide another
16 opportunity for public involvement on this project.

17 It can be very confusing to figure out
18 the role of the agencies and all of the stakeholders
19 in this project in developing the EIS, and then how
20 this relates to the permit decisions that will be
21 made.

22 So we, the Department of Commerce, serve
23 as technical staff to the Public Utilities
24 Commission. And for this project we are
25 coordinating closely with our assisting agencies,

1 the Minnesota DNR and the Minnesota Pollution
2 Control Agency. And then we have also been working
3 throughout this lengthy process with local, state,
4 and federal governments, tribal governments, public,
5 and interested parties. All of that information is
6 going to get folded into the EIS, which, in turn,
7 and critically, informs the Minnesota Public
8 Utilities Commission. And they are the responsible
9 government unit for this project and they will be
10 making the permitting decisions. So the reason the
11 scoping is really important is so we get the right
12 information in the EIS and so we're giving quality
13 information to the Public Utilities Commission for
14 them to make their decision.

15 Again, just the maps of the system
16 alternatives that have been proposed to date that
17 are under consideration. And the route alternatives
18 that have been proposed.

19 And right now the anticipated schedule
20 for these projects includes a final scoping decision
21 by the summer, this summer. A draft EIS early in
22 2017 followed by those draft EIS public meetings. A
23 final EIS and the adequacy determination likely in
24 the summer of 2017, with contested case hearings
25 also in the summer, and potentially a final permit

1 decision by the end of next year.

2 So you can give your comments to us today
3 verbally. You can leave your comment form here with
4 us, you can send your comments in to me by email, by
5 mail, however you want to get them to me. As long
6 as I have them by May 26th, we're good. In fact,
7 they don't have to be to me physically by the 26th,
8 as long as they're postmarked by the 26th, it's
9 fine. But that's the critical date, May 26th.

10 And if you want to find those comments,
11 we will be taking all of the written comments and
12 scanning them and bundling them alphabetically and
13 posting them on our website and on eDockets. If you
14 have provided verbal comments throughout these
15 processes, you will be able to find them in the
16 transcripts that Janet is preparing and they will be
17 by the location in which you spoke. So if you spoke
18 at multiple meetings, you will be able to find your
19 comments at all those locations.

20 With that, I'm going to turn this back
21 over to Barb and we'll move into the formal
22 comments.

23 Yes.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: I just have one question.
25 I've never heard of a PUC being a permitting agency

1 for an environmental issue. I'm wondering about the
2 quality of their staff and their education to do
3 that, their qualifications, at least.

4 MS. JAMIE MACALISTER: The Public
5 Utilities Commission is the responsible governmental
6 unit for utility projects in Minnesota. That
7 includes high voltage transmission lines, pipelines,
8 solar farms, wind farms. They are a five-member
9 commission and they do have varying backgrounds and
10 they make those decisions. We, Commerce, serve as
11 their technical staff. We are the technical writers
12 of this document, along with our sister agencies,
13 the DNR and the Pollution Control Agency.

14 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Give us a moment to
15 get set up.

16 Okay. The way we are going to work this
17 is I'm going to call you up in the order in which
18 you presented a green card. And as I mentioned,
19 what we will do at the end of the comment period, if
20 there's others who want to speak, we'll certainly
21 make room for that.

22 What I have up here is a timer that I
23 will set for five minutes. And I will respectfully
24 let you know when your two minutes and one minute
25 time is up, or when you have two minutes and then

1 one minute remaining. And when the five minutes is
2 up you'll be aware of that and I will encourage you
3 to finish your comments shortly thereafter if you
4 haven't done so already. We want to hear from you,
5 but we don't want to interrupt you in the middle of
6 a thought.

7 Like I said, I'm going to call you up in
8 order. And the first person up is John Munter. And
9 after John we have Bob Munneke, is that right, Bob?
10 So if you could position yourself up near the front,
11 that would help preserve all the time that we have.

12 MR. JOHN MUNTER: My name is John Munter,
13 J-O-H-N, M-U-N-T-E-R.

14 Line 2 is a connected project to
15 Alberta's tar sands, which will exfoliate First
16 Nations with cultural genocide and slow industrial
17 genocide against the Geneva Convention, to which we
18 are a legal signatore.

19 Ground Zero would be Fort Chipewyan,
20 where many of the one thousand souls are seized,
21 with cancers of the gut and dying, with leukemia,
22 lymphoma, lupus, and Graves' disease.

23 It's bloody oil says George Poitras, the
24 former Chief of the Mikisew Cree who was forced to
25 resign by dirty oil, since they were firing his

1 tribe for his stubborn belief that their cancers
2 were not worth their toil.

3 Since it takes two to five barrels of
4 fresh water to make one of oil, the Dene and Cree
5 lose access at times to 80 percent of their land,
6 where they hunt, gather, and trap on its soil, where
7 the fish are diseased, the water is bad, and
8 tradition becomes like sand in the hand.

9 Up the Athabasca where cold, clean water
10 cups were dipped, the beaver splashed and otters
11 romped and played. But above the shallow river, 300
12 feet is tipped, Tar Island Dyke that leaks five
13 swimming pools a day of carcinogenic PHA's, acids,
14 cyanide, and heavy metals. Some little reclamation
15 moves the water, recycles, and plants some pine, but
16 the toxic waste of Mordor may take a thousand years
17 to settle, sprouting on the Athabasca like cancers
18 on the spine.

19 Up the Athabasca an oil boom town meets
20 the Wild West, feeding off the sulphurous slurry,
21 making many \$100,000 driving trucks as Alberta's
22 guests, or bulldozing moonscapes for the town called
23 Fort McMurray.

24 Up the Athabasca, beyond Fort McMurray's
25 slurries, Fort McMurray's toxic belly bloats greater

1 than Three Gorges, where near 500 Chinese towns
2 surrendered to an inundating fury, but slighter than
3 the son of Mordor's earthworks forges.

4 Syncrude Tailings Dam lounges a dozen
5 miles long, rising several hundred feet under all
6 four major flyways, over the Peace-Athabasca Delta's
7 deformed fish and vanishing song. It is stench that
8 never freezes, leaking toxins every day.

9 The ponds of Mordor mining is only a
10 minor section. The other four-fifths must be melted
11 deep beneath the surface, spending three times more
12 carbon, no global climate protection, than for
13 Mideast crude, making tar sands virtual coal on
14 purpose.

15 The Peace-Athabasca's Delta's crowing
16 jewel cloaked in the largest boreal delta forest,
17 will you, Athabasca, be spent for fuel, your second
18 largest carbon storehouse be made the poorest?

19 Your governments do not at all control
20 nor play or plan the role of traffic cop of water
21 takings by the Mordor trolls or of warming's 50
22 percent water drop.

23 O' Athabasca, your aquifer also is
24 threatened deeply. New tailings dams built on sand
25 will leak below. Year after year the threat rises

1 steeply, but even more threats to you rise to know.
2 Groundwater feeding you could be destroyed by deeper
3 manufactured mining steam explosions. And by
4 natural gas wells' fracking now employed, or by well
5 casings, mappings, piping place confusions.

6 Like an iceberg peak, Athabasca, your
7 length is fed by a laughing bedrock channel 25
8 kilometers wide and pure rushing from Saskatchewan,
9 but by dirty needles bled by well casings not long
10 enough to not contaminate the aquifer.

11 Canada and Alberta for First Nations have
12 no pity for those who eat and drink the fish they
13 seem to hate. They trespass upon those with whom
14 they have a treaty. Their legal duty is to consult
15 and accommodate.

16 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, John.

17 I want to check the volume. Can you hear
18 back there? Is it okay? This is yes. Okay,
19 thanks.

20 All right. So Bob, I didn't say your
21 name correctly, and I spoke to you. Bob --

22 MR. BOB MUNNEKE: Munneke.

23 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Very good. You're
24 welcome to come up.

25 And after Bob we have Steve Roe. Is

1 Steve in the room? Okay.

2 MR. BOB MUNNEKE: I'm Bob Munneke,
3 M-U-N-N-E-K-E. I live in Aitkin. Our family also
4 has a cabin in Cass Lake. And we're very aware of
5 the resource of water.

6 Aitkin County has 350 lakes. People come
7 here to build on the lakes and rivers and streams.
8 This is the basic foundation of a lot of our
9 community and economic life. Folks retire here.
10 Folks work here. Folks commute from here to other
11 parts of the area.

12 Water is the draw. And water has created
13 communities and some really valuable real estate
14 that provides tax money to provide the government
15 services that we all need, and schools.

16 If the lakes go, communities will really
17 change. And who wants to build a house on a lake
18 that has oil in the lake or the groundwater has been
19 polluted? So it's really important that we protect
20 the water.

21 Pipelines. One thing about pipelines is
22 they leak. Between 1990 and 1997, Koch Industries
23 were fined for 300 leaks in their pipelines in those
24 seven years. Between 2000 and 2015 in the United
25 States there were 394 pipeline spills. That

1 includes gas and oil.

2 On July 26th, 2010, an Enbridge line
3 split in Kalamazoo, causing a change of life for a
4 whole bunch of people. There was over a million
5 gallons of tar sands oil that ended up in the river.

6 Tar sands is dangerous stuff. One of the
7 people in the Kalamazoo area had been out of town
8 and they came back to their house and noticed all
9 the black stuff in their yard. And as they were
10 walking up to their house, an Enbridge employee came
11 running towards them and said, leave, go, run, run,
12 run. Because, you see, this tar sands, for the tar
13 sands to go into the pipe they have to put some
14 chemicals in there so it'll float. And it's very,
15 very toxic stuff. And for that stuff to get in our
16 lakes area and streams just would be a disaster.

17 And you can't even -- tar sands drops,
18 falls to the floor of the lakes and streams. You
19 have to dredge it out. And that's a problem and
20 causing all kinds of issues too.

21 The thing is, there's other options to
22 the pipelines. You don't have to go through the
23 lake areas, through the sensitive water areas. You
24 can go around. There's other routes, you've
25 probably seen some of the possibilities on the maps

1 back there. So I think we need to encourage and
2 require Enbridge to go a different route, to go
3 around the sensitive water areas.

4 Now, they're not making any new water
5 anymore. What we've got is it. We've got to take
6 good care of it for future generations, for
7 thousands of years.

8 The Book of Genesis indicates the Lord
9 saying, okay, you guys, I've made this place, I'm
10 hanging onto the deed so I get to make the rules.
11 What your job is is to take good care of the place,
12 you're responsible. So it's a call to be
13 responsible in taking care of our area.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Bob.

16 The next person up is Steve Roe. And
17 after Steve it's Janet Hill. Is Janet Hill still in
18 the room?

19 MS. JANET HILL: Right here.

20 MR. STEVE ROE: Thank you.

21 Good morning. Thank you for the
22 opportunity to speak this morning.

23 My name is Steve, S-T-E-V-E, last name
24 Roe, three little letters, R-O-E.

25 I live in Cross Lake, Minnesota. I live

1 on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. I am a member of
2 the board of the Pine River Watershed Alliance. I'm
3 Mayor of Cross Lake. And I belong to many volunteer
4 organizations. And I really believe in this
5 pristine area that we live in.

6 One of my concerns is that we do not pay
7 enough attention to Crow Wing County. The pipeline
8 just nicks the corner of -- the northwest corner of
9 Crow Wing County. However, almost the entire county
10 lies within the Pine River Watershed. And for that
11 I think we need to pay attention.

12 I would really appreciate that we would
13 include in both the Sandpiper and Line 3 scoping
14 projects that we review the federal law that
15 everybody claims we're complying with. There are
16 two elements that are missing. Judgment and the
17 fact that the law states it's minimal. I mean
18 minimal. The whole project is designed to minimum
19 standards, and when we watch the results of this, I
20 can only tell you that the disaster to the Pine
21 River Watershed, I live on Whitefish Lake, would be
22 disastrous.

23 According to Mr. Watson, who is here
24 today, our riparian landowners, seasonal landowners
25 in the area, own property at an estimated tax value

1 of approximately \$1.8 billion. I would hope that we
2 do a complete risk analysis within the scoping of
3 this project which not only includes the
4 environment, but the environment that must include
5 groundwater, surface water, people, wildlife, and
6 the financial values and the costs therein.

7 I would only hope -- I've done some
8 reading and I find that Enbridge does not always
9 consider themselves responsible for the length and
10 breadth of spills.

11 I question whether Line 3 is a relocation
12 or a reconstruction. To me, it's a new project.

13 I also have a strange question. Would
14 the RGU decision change if the people involved were
15 financially responsible? This is very similar to
16 private business. The private business is
17 financially responsible in and of itself. They
18 don't lay that responsibility off on the public.

19 I feel somewhat like Ralph Nader, if any
20 of you are old enough to remember, not safe at any
21 speed, not safe at any pressure. I really don't
22 have a complaint about the location of the pipeline
23 if it were of adequate design. This pipeline should
24 not be located as it is designed anywhere.

25 The location reminds me. The proposer

1 states that we don't want it in the area of
2 population because it would threaten the people in
3 the cities. Why? I mean, do we want to hide it?
4 It's better to have a pipeline in sight of the
5 public. We've got lots of eyes watching it then.

6 Weld joints it seems are the weakest part
7 of the assembly. Failure is assured. And when we
8 read the PHMSA report on some of the failures, they
9 talk about stress cracks. What is a stress crack?
10 A stress crack is a failure in the pipe. It reduces
11 the wall thickness.

12 Also, I would like to see that the design
13 of the system be signed by a certified registered
14 engineer. Somebody that is really responsible.
15 Safety of the environment and population is at stake
16 and that is one of the requirements that an engineer
17 has when he signs off on something like this.

18 The RGU should use their own resources
19 for determining the numbers and the issues and the
20 findings. The Applicants' findings are not always
21 correct.

22 I've discovered also that the emergency
23 response units are being trained in crowd control.
24 I find that very interesting. They're not trained
25 in the disaster that is imminent. But risk

1 assessments must be part of this EIS and the scoping
2 of this EIS.

3 And I thank you for this time.

4 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Steve.
5 Janet Hill. And after Janet we have
6 Susan Klapel.

7 MS. JANET HILL: My name is Janet Hill,
8 H-I-L-L. You know how to spell my first name,
9 Janet. Do I say anything else? Where I'm from?
10 That's it?

11 Okay. I request that the following be
12 addressed in the Sandpiper EIS. I'll submit my full
13 comments before the deadline, but these are a couple
14 points I want to make.

15 Number one, update the project purpose.
16 Others have pointed out problems with the project
17 purpose in the EAW, but I'll focus on the fact that
18 the description of Bakken oil production is based on
19 what was happening back in 2013 when there were 183
20 oil rigs operating in North Dakota. Today there are
21 just 27, yet Enbridge's project purpose states the
22 Bakken production exceeds the currently available
23 pipeline capacity, which is obviously not true
24 anymore.

25 Two years after this was written, the oil

1 and gas Financial Times stated in 2015 that
2 available capacity on both rail and pipeline out of
3 North Dakota today is more than enough to handle
4 current and projected crude production.

5 Regarding rail, Enbridge is telling the
6 Sandpiper's public by saying it will take pressure
7 off rail shipments. But even if the Sandpiper
8 existed, it wouldn't necessarily carry the oil
9 that's currently being shipped by rail. Even the
10 director of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority
11 talking about oil leaving North Dakota said that oil
12 trains mostly supplied coastal refiners that are not
13 necessarily served by pipelines. So let's not kid
14 ourselves about rail.

15 Oh, take a deep breath.

16 Even if the oil industry believes that
17 the Bakken boom will return someday, we can't
18 consider such a land-altering, massive project based
19 on wishful thinking and a project purpose that is no
20 longer true. It seems to me the project purpose
21 must be fixed to reflect the current situation
22 before we can proceed further, as this presumably is
23 the reason we're talking about building a pipeline
24 in the first place. We need to revise the project
25 purpose and soon. The fact that Enbridge didn't

1 update it for the scoping process is bizarre,
2 considering the seriousness of the project for all
3 concerned.

4 Two. While addressing the economies of
5 each water body listed in the EAW, I trust that
6 you'll look at the truth behind the statistics.
7 Regarding this area that we're in right now, the EAW
8 states simply that the Sandpiper does not cross Big
9 Sandy Lake. I worry that an outside firm like
10 Cardno, while preparing this EIS would look at this
11 and move on, thinking Sandy Lake isn't affected.
12 But in fact the pipeline would pass under the
13 inflowing river to Big Sandy, crossing the width of
14 the Big Sandy Watershed, the entirety of which
15 empties into Big Sandy and then into the Mississippi
16 River.

17 For the EAW it's also not mentioned that
18 Big Sandy Lake is the foundation of our local
19 economy and the home of one of the biggest tax bases
20 in our county. A major spill anywhere in the Big
21 Sandy Watershed would ravage the economy of Aitkin
22 County. And 50 years from now, when the aging
23 Sandpiper begins to leak from age and weathering,
24 there will be oil in Big Sandy Lake if we accept
25 Enbridge's proposed route. This region is simply

1 too watery for an oil pipeline.

2 Three. In Section 4.6 of the DSDD,
3 include information from the National Academy of
4 Sciences reports, bitumen is diluted from pipelines,
5 which states that whether diluted bitumen has more
6 potential for chronic contamination, that's constant
7 contamination of water supplies. Enbridge's
8 proposed route crosses the Mississippi twice
9 upstream from millions of people who depend on that
10 river for their drinking water. The Minnesota DOC
11 cannot ignore this study, not when people all over
12 the country are becoming aware of the safety of
13 their drinking water.

14 Four. In Section 4.5 of the DSDD,
15 include information about leak detection systems.
16 Enbridge says on their website, we invest heavily in
17 leading-edge tools and technology to ensure the
18 system is safe. Unfortunately, in reality, the
19 technology is not up to the task. Please refer to
20 the U.S. Department of Transportation and Pipeline
21 and Hazardous Material Safety Administration's final
22 report of the leak detection study. The study found
23 that more oil spills are discovered by citizens than
24 their leak detection system, yet Enbridge continues
25 to overstate the safety of these systems.

1 I worry that the DOC or Cardno will look
2 only at Enbridge's information, not the truth,
3 especially when it comes to river crossings. Also,
4 global oil and gas pipeline leak detection industry
5 is expected to surpass \$1.8 billion in the next five
6 years, due in part to increased leaks over the past
7 few years. In Texas alone, the frequency of leaks
8 and other hazardous events has more than doubled
9 since 1995.

10 Research shows that weather, age, and
11 corrosion are all common causes of leaks. People in
12 the oil industry are publicly broadcasting almost
13 daily that pipelines are safe and that spills are
14 rare, and it's just not true.

15 Keep going? Okay.

16 And then my last point is --

17 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you.

18 MS. JANET HILL: -- include realistic job
19 data. In addition to Sandpiper data, please get
20 data from the Minnesota Department of Employment and
21 Economic Development on similar jobs available in
22 the green energy sector and on the current state of
23 pipefitter employment in Minnesota to get a true
24 picture of the job situation. Also take into
25 consideration existing non-pipeline-related jobs

1 that would be lost in the event of a major spill.
2 Over the lifespan of the pipeline, it's possible
3 that net jobs with the Sandpiper would be a negative
4 number.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Janet.

7 All right. The next person up is Susan
8 Klapel, and after that we have Robert Shaw.

9 And we're going to take a break at 12:15
10 just to give Janet a rest, but we'll keep at it
11 until we're done.

12 MS. SUSAN KLAPEL: My name is Susan
13 Klapel, K-L-A-P-E-L. I am the Commissioner of
14 Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

15 The Mille Lacs Band will submit written
16 comments which will address the Band's concerns
17 regarding the scope of the environmental review for
18 the Sandpiper and Line 3 projects in greater detail.

19 But today I want to make four points on
20 behalf of the Mille Lacs Band.

21 First, the environmental review must be
22 thorough and objective. Regardless of where the
23 pipelines are constructed, they will affect
24 thousands of people and the environment in which
25 they live. However, some potential routes present

1 more problems than others.

2 In order to make an informed decision and
3 to minimize the impact on people and the
4 environment, the state must have a complete and
5 accurate understanding of the potential impacts of
6 the proposed projects and all reasonable
7 alternatives.

8 Second, the pipelines are proposed to be
9 located near Minnesota's most productive wild rice
10 waters. These waters are not only important as
11 environmental and economic resources, they are an
12 integral part of the cultural identity of the Mille
13 Lacs Band. The environmental review must include an
14 evaluation of all potential impacts on these waters,
15 including their unquantifiable value as cultural
16 resources.

17 Third, the final scoping decision
18 documents must include a detailed plan for
19 consultation between the State of Minnesota and the
20 Mille Lacs Band. The Band is a sovereign government
21 with a duty to protect the interests of all of its
22 members. This can only be achieved if the Band and
23 the State engage in early and meaningful
24 consultation regarding potential impacts of the
25 proposed projects and the evaluation of alternatives

1 to minimize these impacts.

2 And, finally, I encourage the Department
3 of Commerce, the Applicants, and all agencies and
4 officials involved in the environmental review
5 process to listen to carefully to the comments made
6 by the community today. These individuals will be
7 directly affected by the proposed projects and we
8 all share an obligation to ensure that all
9 reasonable steps are taken to address their concerns
10 and to minimize potential impacts of the proposed
11 projects.

12 Miigwech. (Ojibwe.)

13 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you.

14 The next person up is Robert Shaw. After
15 Robert we have Vicki -- I think it's Bibeau.

16 MR. ROBERT SHAW: My name is Robert Shaw,
17 S-H-A-W. I'm from Grand Rapids, Minnesota. I work
18 for Local 49.

19 I've been on these projects with Enbridge
20 before, in '08 and '09, and 2010 for cleanup. And
21 my point is, is Local 49 has the best, one of the
22 best training centers in Minnesota and throughout
23 the United States. They have offered the training
24 to perform these projects with Enbridge and follow
25 the strict guidelines of Enbridge's building codes.

1 I feel that we need to focus on the
2 safety of how Enbridge builds these pipelines. I've
3 been on the project from the beginning to the end
4 and also on testing. I know the equipment that they
5 use to verify the quality of the pipe and how it
6 is -- how much pressure has gone through the pipe
7 and how it's regulated.

8 Also, in the last recent years I have
9 went to the maintenance of these pipelines, of
10 existing lines. And there is a piece of technology
11 equipment that they use, it's called a smart pig,
12 that they send through these lines to find the
13 integrity and the faults of anything that is in
14 these pipes. And it is immediately repaired or
15 inspected to the qualifications of transporting this
16 oil. And it's not tar sand, it's oil sand.

17 So thank you very much.

18 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Robert.

19 Vicki Bibeau. And after Vicki I have Jim
20 Reents.

21 MS. VICKI BIBEAU: My name is Vicki
22 Bibeau, V-I-C-K-Y, B-I-B-E-A-U.

23 Good afternoon, everybody. I have lived
24 over half of my life bordering the Minnesota
25 Chippewa National Forest. I'm a block away from the

1 Mississippi River and a block from the original
2 Line 3 that runs along Highway 2 to Duluth, which is
3 100 miles from my house in the forest.

4 I've seen the Enbridge fires in Cohasset
5 burning off the oil spills with huge black smoke for
6 days and weeks floating west in the sky. I'm aware
7 of the oil spill in the Prairie River in Grand
8 Rapids that was a major disaster. We all should
9 know about the recent oil spill near Clearbrook
10 while there was still snow on the ground.

11 What about the abandonment of the
12 original Line 3? The one that runs along Highway 2?
13 Enbridge is calling the proposed new pipeline
14 Sandpiper, but it also wants to put in a new Line 3
15 along with it. The original Line 3 along Highway 2
16 is planned to be abandoned, and abandoned oil pipes
17 will corrode. Enbridge proposes to leave it there
18 with no cleanup whatsoever. This is abandonment of
19 a soon-to-be corrosive pipeline. I will compare
20 this man-made problem to Flint, Michigan, with the
21 lead in their poisoned water. It's pipeline
22 fatigue. You can't have any new toys until you get
23 rid of the broken ones. I think they should clean
24 up old Line 3 before they put any more pipelines in
25 the ground.

1 Do we all know that Enbridge has changed
2 their name on this project just for Sandpiper and
3 now refer to themselves as North Dakota Pipeline
4 Company? It might sound a little bit more American
5 to the average citizen, but it is still a foreign
6 company from another country, right? Are we all
7 aware that Enbridge hired an ad company to create
8 the maps that are inside this room and the DOC is
9 using them as displays for us? Are the people who
10 attend these meetings aware that many times the
11 union workers, and some are bussed in, are not from
12 nor live in Minnesota. Enbridge has testified that
13 this job will bring 22 permanent jobs. 22 jobs.
14 That is a number from Enbridge's own testimony.

15 I'm concerned that most of these hearings
16 for this new pipeline are only held during the fall
17 and spring and nothing in the summer when many
18 people live up here at the lake and in their cabins
19 and could certainly have something to say about
20 this.

21 Most comments on the railroad issue seem
22 to be incorrect when I check the facts. The oil
23 company buys the railroad cars for the oil. I do
24 know that I would rather have a railroad oil car
25 derail and spill a certain known amount of oil along

1 a railroad track than a pipeline spill into the
2 earth and water with an unknown amount of
3 destruction, creating an impossible total cleanup,
4 especially in places that you cannot get to easily.

5 I am offended by the maps that Enbridge
6 provides for this project. How can they help the
7 EIS if most of the lakes and rivers are not shown on
8 Enbridge's maps that many of their oil pipelines run
9 through? I suggest to all in this room that you
10 Google Minnesota lakes on a map search and look at
11 the water and the rivers. Then compare it to what
12 maps Enbridge provides and posts on their website.

13 I travel these routes that connect the
14 watersheds and the lakes and the rivers, especially
15 for the past two years, traveling down to St. Paul
16 to the PUC hearings, court battles, and the motions.
17 It is a 400-mile trip for me, as so many of these
18 departments of Minnesota know very well by now.

19 It is a known fact that Enbridge has no
20 answers on how they plan to restore the many wild
21 rice beds when an oil spill occurs. You all do know
22 that natural wild rice only grows in Minnesota and
23 along the Canadian and Wisconsin borders, right?
24 You are aware that the black wild rice that you can
25 buy in the Twin Cities is not really wild rice from

1 Minnesota, right? You do understand that wild rice
2 is harvested by two people in a canoe in our lakes
3 and rivers, with two long sticks to knock each grain
4 of rice into the canoe, correct?

5 And you know that people that live up
6 here eat that rice several times a week, if not
7 daily, to supplement their existence. It is one of
8 the oldest and most traditional foods known on this
9 continent. And it only grows here in Minnesota in
10 the rivers and lakes, totally naturally.

11 You cannot eat or drink oil or money.
12 Water will get you through times of no oil, but oil
13 will not get you through times of no water. The oil
14 spills, leaks, and releases will create a
15 devastation in Minnesota and down the river to the
16 Gulf of Mexico that will last longer than your
17 grandchildren's lifetime.

18 So when they ask, my belief is that you
19 as citizens of Minnesota and employees of Minnesota
20 listen and learn from all of us who come to these
21 hearings and are fearless enough to comment. We
22 want to believe that you will do your job and come
23 to the reality that the EIS will show, prove, and
24 verify that a foreign oil company from anywhere
25 cannot buy itself into Minnesota by going through

1 our lakes, rivers, and land with destruction that
2 will eventually come from proof of the abandonment
3 lines that Enbridge could care less about. This
4 must be the real EIS focus. The abandonment risks
5 versus Enbridge's costs. And not just construction
6 sites for the environmental impact statement,
7 because Enbridge has two more old pipelines on
8 Highway 2 after this that will also need to be
9 replaced and not abandoned.

10 When all is said and done and it gets
11 approved by the state of Minnesota, which I doubt,
12 it will be bigger than the Keystone XL. That is not
13 a good thing for Minnesota.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Vicki.

16 The next person up is James Reents. And
17 after Jim I have Harvey Goodsky, Junior.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Goodsky.

19 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Goodsky. I beg
20 your pardon.

21 MR. JAMES REENTS: My name is James
22 Reents, R-E-E-N-T-S. Thank you all for coming
23 today.

24 I want to start my comments by stating
25 that I am concerned about the language in the EAW

1 and the draft scoping document for the environmental
2 impact statement. Semantics matter.

3 As Jamie made her presentation, Jamie
4 MacAlister with the Department of Commerce, earlier,
5 she talked about routes, route alternatives, and
6 segment alternatives. If you look on the maps in
7 the back of the room, there are also system
8 alternatives. Yet within the language for
9 submission you're only given the language for routes
10 and route alternatives.

11 This leads one to believe that system
12 alternatives are not going to be seriously
13 considered within the scoping document, nor in the
14 EIS, and I have a concern about that. The language
15 needs to be changed to always include system
16 alternatives as well as route alternatives if we are
17 to have a fair and balanced environmental impact
18 statement.

19 I would also state that we have lost
20 sight, I believe, that the Applicant is a private
21 company. And that the Applicant is asking all of
22 us, all of you, for the right to transport oil
23 across the state of Minnesota. We're all here
24 because they're asking for the right to transport
25 oil across some of the most sensitive lands in

1 Minnesota. You don't have to be opposed to oil, you
2 don't have to be opposed to pipelines, but I think
3 all of us, or the majority of us here are opposed to
4 pipelines in the most sensitive environmental areas
5 of the state.

6 While the North Dakota Pipeline Company
7 and Enbridge's initial applications included
8 information that Janet Hill alluded to earlier, it
9 should not be used to limit the scope of the EIS,
10 nor should the scope of the EIS be narrowed to
11 include only those areas of construction of the
12 pipeline. We all know that the impacts to flowing
13 waters, to lakes, to aquifers, and to the natural
14 environment far extend beyond those areas of
15 construction.

16 I need to say that all of us here are not
17 anti-union, we're not anti-job. We're all
18 interested in the location of least impact of these
19 pipelines if and when, through the EIS evaluation,
20 it's proven that they are needed, and the trade-off
21 for that need we're willing to make as Minnesotans.

22 Some of the poorest counties in the state
23 of Minnesota are impacted by these pipelines. This
24 is not a mistake on the part of the Applicant. It's
25 easier that poor people and poor counties have less

1 voice and are more enamored with fees paid and taxes
2 paid by a pipeline company and the short-term
3 benefits of construction jobs and the ancillary
4 spending in an area. We're being asked to accept
5 that in trade-off for the long-term environmental
6 degradation and potential environmental catastrophe
7 within our communities. This is an issue of social
8 justice and should not be ignored within the EIS.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thanks, Jim.

11 The next person up is Harvey Goodsky.
12 After Harvey we have Sandra -- forgive me, I can't
13 read it, but I think the last four letters are
14 N-A-W-A-Y.

15 MS. SANDRA SKINAWAY: Skinaway.

16 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Skinaway.

17 MR. HARVEY GOODSKY: (Ojibwe.) My name
18 is Harvey Goodsky, G-O-O-D-S-K-Y.

19 I only have a small comment to make and
20 it is with the process of these hearings. This is
21 an excerpt.

22 Congress -- Congress shall have the power
23 to regulate Commerce with foreign nations among the
24 several states and with the Anishinabe.

25 Now, this is federal. I do not see any

1 members of Congress in this room. I do not see any
2 United States officials here. I see State of
3 Minnesota delegates. And, again, welcome to our
4 environment, the Anishinabe environment, Rice Lake
5 peoples. I do not come to you as a different type
6 of human being. I am a dual citizen with the United
7 States and a citizen of Mille Lacs Band.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Harvey.

10 The next person up is Sandra Skinaway.

11 And after Sandra we have Jean Ross.

12 MS. SANDRA SKINAWAY: Boozhoo, everybody.

13 My name is Sandra Skinaway, S-A-N-D-R-A,
14 S-K-I-N-A-W-A-Y.

15 I also am here to represent the Sandy
16 Lake Band of Mississippi Ojibwe north of McGregor.
17 Our reservation at Sandy Lake encompasses the Big
18 Sandy Lake and the Mississippi River runs along our
19 reservation's boundaries. My family has been here
20 for centuries and we continue to hunt, fish, and
21 gather here as our ancestors once did.

22 Our ancestors entered into treaty
23 agreements with the United States government and the
24 effect of these treaties was the transfer of
25 millions of acres of aboriginal land in exchange for

1 a guarantee of certain portions of the land to be
2 reserved, the payment of annual annuities, and the
3 guarantee of the ability to conduct hunting,
4 fishing, and gathering activities in the ceded
5 territories.

6 Speaking on behalf of the Ojibwe people
7 and my family at Sandy Lake, we voice our opposition
8 to the construction of any pipeline that will
9 endanger or threaten our way of life and the lives
10 of our future generations yet to come.

11 I have voiced our concerns many times in
12 past hearings for these Enbridge pipelines, which
13 I'm really surprised that we keep going through the
14 same old schpiel all the time. We should know that
15 these pipelines are really bad for us here in our
16 region. We have very sensitive watersheds. But,
17 anyway, here in Aitkin County, it's pretty much a
18 big swamp. I mean, it has many aquifers that are
19 present and they are all interconnected.

20 At my home we have a pristine water well
21 and we value our water over there at home. And
22 there are other areas where there are natural water
23 springs that still exist. And pipelines will
24 destroy all of that as well as our life-sustaining
25 Manoomin, also known as wild rice. Also impacted

1 will be our medicinal plants, the trees that give us
2 oxygen and filters out bad toxins, the wildlife, the
3 fish, and other forms of life.

4 Wild rice and water are the lifeblood of
5 the Anishinabe people. We have a responsibility to
6 protect these for our future generations yet to
7 come, and we always look to the next seven
8 generations into the future.

9 And this future looks bleak already with
10 the annual climate changes and water shortages
11 currently occurring in California and in other
12 countries. Recently, a town in Wisconsin is
13 requesting to divert Lake Michigan water due to
14 problems with their drinking water. The Great Lakes
15 are the largest interconnected fresh water lakes
16 here on earth and we all have a responsibility, we
17 all do, to protect what we now have.

18 Two minutes. Okay.

19 Now, pipelines have a track record and
20 are known to leak. As a matter of fact, they are
21 pretty much guaranteed to leak. They'll leak. I
22 keep saying that all the time 'cause it's true.

23 Replacing Enbridge's Line 3 and placing
24 it within 25 feet of another pipeline going through
25 our water-rich lands is completely absurd.

1 Now, the Aitkin County Board of
2 Commissioners here have already placed a rubber
3 stamp on this pipeline, but we are here to say that
4 they do not speak for us. No one speaks for Sandy
5 Lake Band. We speak for ourselves.

6 The proposed construction route as it is
7 will have devastating effects on our culture and our
8 way of life. To avoid these threats we recommend
9 that Enbridge relocate their lengthy replacement
10 pipeline and their Sandpiper pipeline to other
11 proposed routes that have been submitted for
12 consideration that are far from the wild rice and
13 the sensitive waters.

14 I'd like to say miigwech for this
15 opportunity to speak, and I hope that you submit
16 some of our proposed recommendations into the EIS.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Sandra.

19 All right. Jean Ross.

20 And then after Jean I have Kathy
21 Hollander.

22 MS. JEAN ROSS: I'm Jean Ross, J-E-A-N,
23 R-O-S-S. I'm sorry I'm so emotional. I've been
24 crying off and on since Monday night when I heard
25 Winona LaDuke talk about the people in her community

1 that have turned to drugs and committed suicide.
2 I'm worried about the young people that are on
3 suicide watch. And I'm here to talk about the
4 societal costs and the costs to human civilization
5 that must be addressed.

6 What will it cost to have proper services
7 and opportunities for the indigenous peoples that
8 are most affected by our capitalistic, consumptive,
9 ruinous practices? This will be the civil rights
10 issue of our time. These people have done nothing
11 but be good stewards of the land, water, and air and
12 we walked all over their reservation's territorial
13 lands and rights.

14 Not only should we remediate the entire
15 Line 3 that has been leaking and poisoning the
16 shallow water table, but also Lines 1, 2, and 4.
17 Let's figure out how much it will cost to do the
18 right thing by the Anishinabe and factor in the
19 costs of cleaning up all the old lines.

20 We taxpayers in Minnesota should not be
21 paying for this. Enbridge should be ordered to set
22 aside enough money to pay for all of the removal of
23 their failing infrastructure before they be allowed
24 to build any new infrastructure. And some
25 alternatives routes should be considered that don't

1 go through this pristine north country.

2 Western farming methods that use
3 petrochemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides, and
4 huge feedlots that allow runoffs of animal waste
5 into waterways have already degraded the western and
6 southern part of our state.

7 If Enbridge is permitted to build these
8 goddamn pipelines, all responsible parties better
9 consider those alternatives, because if Enbridge
10 doggedly pursues and insists on their preferred
11 route, we will be back in court again and our
12 taxpayer dollars again will be spent because of your
13 flawed and one-sided approach.

14 Oh, and by the way. I had to listen to
15 people on Monday night in St. Paul talking about how
16 wonderful Enbridge is. And it's not part of the EIS
17 process. So I'm here to put on the record that they
18 are not a wonderful company. They bully their
19 employees, they have their lobbyist pushing our
20 Governor, who claims that he wants to be the water
21 legacy governor. He better change his mind if he
22 wants to have the water legacy. And he's been
23 pressuring the Environmental Quality Board to not
24 change the RGU. Enbridge's environmental track
25 record is abysmal and I don't think our Governor and

1 our state agencies should trust him, that they are
2 all of a sudden going to completely change their
3 modus operandi and do this great stewardship thing
4 in the most pristine areas we have left.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Jean.

7 Kathy Hollander, and then Korey Northrup.

8 MS. KATHY HOLLANDER: Hi, everyone.

9 Kathy Hollander, K-A-T-H-Y, H-O-L-L-A-N-D-E-R.

10 I'm also here to speak about oil by rail
11 today because I think that the EIS should seriously
12 consider these other alternatives and not just
13 discount them saying that one is more expensive than
14 the other.

15 The reason I say this is that
16 transportation of oil by rail is faster and it's
17 more flexible. Now, pretend you're a shipper in
18 North Dakota or in Canada. Let's say North Dakota
19 for a minute. Also, in a free market society you
20 have a choice, even if pipelines are built, it
21 doesn't mean that you are automatically going to
22 choose choice A over choice B. We are a country
23 that loves free choice and some shippers are going
24 to continue to ship by rail.

25 Oil by rail doesn't require penalty,

1 late, and long-term contract, take or play. If you
2 ship by pipeline you will pay whether or not you are
3 actually shipping oil. That's what the contracts
4 are in Sandpiper. Oil by rail delivers oil where
5 there are no pipelines. Several people have
6 mentioned on the East Coast where most of the Bakken
7 oil that currently ships is intended, is going by
8 the way of Canadian refineries. There are no
9 pipelines there.

10 Oil by rail delivers the exact oil that
11 was loaded onto a railcar. Whereas on a pipeline,
12 especially in Wisconsin, oil can be intermixed with
13 other kinds of oil, it can pick up impurities,
14 sulfur and others. And some refineries like to have
15 a certain kind of oil from certain wells. I will
16 note that in the Star Tribune David Schaffer
17 interviewed Northern Tier Refinery in St. Paul,
18 Minnesota, and they were quoted as saying they had
19 found a couple of wells in North Dakota that they
20 really liked, they were optimally suited for their
21 refinery, so they chose to ship -- I think it said
22 by truck, because they wanted that specific oil from
23 specific wells. If they put it on a pipeline it
24 would have been mixed up with other kinds of oils.

25 Oil by rail provides storage. In a

1 worldwide glut of oil, which is what we have right
2 now, once you load oil onto a railcar it stays on
3 that railcar until it gets to a refinery. If you
4 put oil on a pipeline, you can have it unloaded at
5 Clearbrook, Minnesota, it can be unloaded in
6 Superior, it's unloaded in Chicago, it's unloaded in
7 Cushing if you're going down to the Gulf of Mexico.
8 They have to use intermediary tanks in order to ship
9 it from one pipeline to another. In a worldwide
10 glut of oil, which is what we have, storage tanks
11 are filling up. Having optimal storage, loading it
12 once, and getting it to your destination matters.

13 Also, crude oil coming from the tar sands
14 can ship without diluent. And if you remember the
15 spill in Parkers Prairie, Minnesota, that was almost
16 straight bitumen that was loaded on those railcars.
17 And you can get a lot more oil on a railcar if you
18 don't have to have the diluent. On the pipeline,
19 tar sands oil is mixed with up to 30 percent
20 diluent. There's even a special word called railfit
21 to call the heavy kind of oil you ship on rail.

22 Also, if you ship by pipeline there are
23 11 pages of rules and regulations on what you have
24 to do to ship by pipeline. Things like temperature
25 of the oil, vapor pressure, sediment, water,

1 density, organic chlorides, salt. Also, with the
2 FERC Enbridge can specify the kind of vapor pressure
3 they want in oil that they put on their pipelines.
4 They can reduce the acceptable vapor pressure. So
5 if you are a shipper in North Dakota and you have a
6 load of oil that's really volatile, you don't have
7 the option of putting it on a pipeline. Where do
8 you put it? You've got to put it on a railcar.
9 None of us want these highly volatile oils on
10 railcars.

11 But my point is we are a free market
12 society, oil will continue to be shipped by rail.
13 We can't control it, it's not a switch, we can't say
14 we as a society don't want that so we're not going
15 to have it.

16 I'd also like to point out a couple other
17 things. Flint Hills that has this trend of oil by
18 rail is not temporary. Also, in terms of other
19 alternatives, Dakota Access Pipeline has announced
20 that 90 percent of their 450,000 barrel capacity is
21 already subscribed. So with the Bakken oil by
22 pipeline Enbridge already has, let's say, about
23 400,000, whatever. They have two different ways of
24 getting oil out of the Bakken, Enbridge does. They
25 have two different pipeline systems, one goes back

1 up into Canada and comes down through Clearbrook in
2 a different way, and one goes on the existing Line
3 81. And then we have this Dakota Access, and we
4 know that some oil will continue to be shipped by
5 rail. You add that all up and that equals about
6 what we have right now in Bakken.

7 I can't help it that Iran, Iraq, Russia,
8 OPEC, Nigeria, are continuing to bring more and more
9 oil out of the ground. None of us can help that.
10 People say they want domestic oil, I understand
11 that, but most refineries in the Midwest converted
12 several years ago to tar sands oil because they
13 believed it was cheaper. They cannot switch to
14 Bakken sweet crude for optimization of their
15 refinery. They have no choice but to stick with the
16 Canadian tar sands. So there's simply too much oil
17 in the world being brought out of the ground,
18 especially the Bakken sweet crude. It has nowhere
19 to go and now they want to bring out more. I simply
20 call that greed. If oil is so precious, let's leave
21 some in the ground for future generations.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Kathy.

24 I'm going to hold off on Korey for just a
25 bit. We are now at the -- we are going to take a

1 break, that was the twelfth person, Kathy was the
2 twelfth person, and we're up to 20. Or 21, excuse
3 me. So we're going to take a 15-minute break, so
4 look at your watch, add 15 minutes, and we will
5 start back.

6 (Break taken.)

7 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Ryan Gapske.

8 And after Ryan we've got Frank Bibeau.

9 Ryan Gapske and Frank Bibeau.

10 MR. RYAN GAPSKE: My name is Ryan Gapske.

11 That's Ryan with an R, and G-A-P-S-K-E.

12 So I come here today with a more
13 spiritual aspect of this. If you look at the
14 Earth's core, or the surface of the Earth, you'll
15 find that there's many elements that are similar to
16 a human body, you know, such as the calcium, iron,
17 magnesium, potassium. But there's a major one and
18 that's water. The human body is made up with
19 roughly 70 percent of water, just as the Earth is as
20 well.

21 Underneath that, I find oil to be blood
22 just as a human being has blood. So I kind of ask,
23 you know, why would we bring that blood up. And
24 there's something that we do, something that I do is
25 donate blood. And there's something that we do with

1 oil and we extract that from the Earth and we
2 extract blood from the human body, right?

3 But with oil, what we do is we burn it
4 off in carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. With
5 our blood, we usually donate it to give back to
6 somebody else. And when we use that oil we're not
7 giving it back to the Earth, we're just getting rid
8 of it. So, you know, that's one part.

9 And there's another issue going on with
10 Native American people. That is the simulation.
11 You know, I learned about that in college. And if
12 we let these pipelines run through Native American
13 communities and we destroy those wild rice beds, it
14 further pushes Native communities to assimilate to
15 white culture, the white European culture, you could
16 say. So we need to be aware of that. And, you
17 know, I wrote a thesis when I came up with this
18 work. You know, regress is progressive. So
19 sometimes we have to go back from the ways in which
20 we're going right now, we have to go back and see
21 what we can do to regress, what's progressive in a
22 way. So these are some things I guess we can think
23 about a little bit. I don't know.

24 That's all I got to say. Thanks, guys.

25 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Ryan.

1 Frank. And then after Frank we have Jeff
2 Sheldon.

3 MR. FRANK BIBEAU: Thanks. That was all
4 the secret information she was telling me.

5 My name is Frank Bibeau and I'm from
6 around northern Minnesota. I live in Ball Club.
7 I'm also the executive director of the 1855 Treaty
8 Authority, you've heard a lot of things from people
9 today about our treaty rights, and they were also
10 accurately stated, so there's going to be a little
11 collision if things continue this way.

12 I would tell you that I live on Highway 2
13 and, unfortunately, three out of the six pipelines
14 are aging. And so this is very important to me
15 because while we talk about construction, all I know
16 about is abandonment. And that's my concern. And
17 the next pipeline after that will be my concern.
18 And all I see is DOC and Enbridge wanting to make a
19 new path.

20 And when you look at the path, it
21 completely surrounds Leech Lake. And that means no
22 matter where you go for any pipeline, it will
23 eventually get to Leech Lake and into the
24 Mississippi River even on the existing crossings.
25 So all we're doing is making it worse. There's no

1 reason for a second corridor, period.

2 So having said that, Enbridge has every
3 right and obligation to pull out old Line 3. And
4 they should pull it out and then put in new Line 3
5 right there. And all the jobs for all the operators
6 and everybody else will be right there, right here
7 in Minnesota, making things safe and clean. Not
8 putting in a second area that's going to be a
9 problem 50, 60 years from now. That's what we
10 really need to watch for.

11 New construction, you can figure it out,
12 they'll permit it anyway. The real question is what
13 are we going to do about the abandoned pipelines?
14 About river water, lake water, whatever is in those
15 pipelines going from waterway to waterway, from the
16 aquifers to the waterways, from the animals that
17 live in there from the animals that can't live in
18 there.

19 What we study now about pipeline
20 abandonment and the mistakes we make doing that EIS
21 will help us with the next abandoned pipeline and
22 the next abandoned pipeline. That's what we need to
23 watch out for.

24 I know the operators can put things in
25 there, I know the welders can weld things up. The

1 real question is who's going to do the cleanup?
2 That's the real question. And it's none of us here.
3 Maybe some of the younger folks like Harvey, but
4 most of us, it's going to happen after us. So we
5 have to watch out and make sure that we're looking
6 at the right path. And that path is pulling out the
7 old line and putting in the new line right there.
8 Or no line at all. It's that simple.

9 When I was at the Bemidji hearing there
10 was a person from the Clearwater County board, or
11 something like that, maybe a commissioner, and his
12 argument was our guys need work because everything
13 is dead in the Bakken. Now, that's a pretty
14 profound statement. It's almost like a bridge to
15 nowhere in Alaska. If everything is dead in the
16 Bakken, why are we even talking about it? That's a
17 real simple question.

18 So we only have Line 3 left. And Line 3
19 has a place, Line 3 can go right there, there's no
20 easements that have to be obtained, everything is
21 legit, and we can live with it, because we have to
22 live with it, because we are living with it, and we
23 will have to live with it in the future. We don't
24 have to multiply our problems.

25 So that's what the EIS needs to do,

1 thoroughly explain how abandoning pipelines is okay
2 for all the money that Enbridge is going to get and
3 the 22 jobs that go with Sandpiper and maybe a
4 couple more with Line 3. Okay?

5 Real simple stuff. Find out how it kills
6 us, then how it's not going to kill us in the
7 future, or you don't get to do it. Right?

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Frank.
10 Jeff Sheldon. And after Jeff I have
11 Vicki Andrews.

12 MR. JEFF SHELDON: Jeff Sheldon,
13 S-H-E-L-D-O-N.

14 I'll be real short. Last summer I was in
15 Carlton at a scoping meeting and there was a whole
16 list of scoping meetings, now there's a whole list
17 of scoping meetings, and I didn't say anything at
18 the last one.

19 Two things I do want to say, this
20 building is a lot nicer than the one in Carlton and
21 the cookies are way better. I can tell you that.

22 I just want to address the folks in the
23 back of the room. Just a couple comments. The DNR,
24 the PUC, the Department of Commerce, Pollution
25 Control Agency, I'm not sure if I missed anyone or

1 not, but this thing has really been drug on forever.
2 Can you keep the EIS within the 280-day time frame
3 as set by statute and only say the alternatives that
4 meet the needs of the project. This thing has
5 dragged on forever. I do love your cookies and
6 coffee. I do come to these, they're interesting.
7 But I'm fat enough.

8 So that's all I've got to say. Thank
9 you.

10 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Jeff.
11 Vicki Andrews, and after Vicki I've got
12 Tom Watson.

13 MS. VICKI ANDREWS: My name is Vicki
14 Andrews, V-I-C-K-I, A-N-D-R-E-W-S.

15 And I'm from Grand Rapids. I am a
16 retired social worker who worked primarily in child
17 protection for many years. And I know what children
18 and families need to survive. I know that they need
19 clean air to breathe and clean water to drink and
20 healthy food to eat.

21 Parents also need jobs that pay them
22 enough to buy the necessities in life for their
23 families, as well as good education and health care.
24 I also know that they don't need us to destroy the
25 air, the water, and their hopes for a healthy

1 future.

2 I don't have a scientific background and
3 I don't have a good grasp of all the technical
4 information on why some pipeline routes are better
5 than others. I do know that the proposed pipelines
6 will probably be carrying oil extracted from the
7 Bakken oil shale formation of North Dakota, which
8 wastes five barrels of water for every barrel of oil
9 produced, and produces up to 50 percent more
10 greenhouse gases than conventional oil because of
11 the intense heating that is needed before it can be
12 extracted. It also contains high levels of
13 corrosive hydrogen sulfide and is extracted from the
14 Earth through hydraulic fracking, which is very
15 problematic.

16 I know that these pipelines may also be
17 carrying tar sands oil, which in many ways is even
18 more hazardous. And I also know that it is never a
19 question of whether pipelines will leak, but rather
20 when. By building new pipelines and new routes we
21 are putting more Minnesota land and waterways at
22 risk. It just doesn't make sense to me.

23 I also want to speak briefly on the
24 pipeline abandonment issue, as I live in Grand
25 Rapids, home of the soon-to-be-abandoned pipeline 3.

1 It is old and probably in need of replacing or
2 removing, but to abandon it can lead to many
3 unpleasant consequences, disastrous consequences.
4 If Enbridge is not required to remove the pipeline
5 and restore the damaged ecosystem, there may never
6 be a full accounting of the ongoing and future
7 contamination surrounding the area.

8 As the pipeline is old and has had many
9 structural anomalies, there's likely been oil
10 leaking into the area that we are not aware of.
11 There can also be problems from treatment chemicals
12 in the pipeline. Pipeline coatings and their
13 degradation. Possible PCB contamination from
14 lubricants. Over time there can be shifting of the
15 abandoned pipeline into unplanned water conduits,
16 which can cause a natural drainage of water deep
17 underground which can then cause soil and water
18 contamination.

19 There are simply too many potential dire
20 consequences to proceed with abandonment without
21 much further study and improved legislation to
22 protect the Earth and the landowners.

23 I also know that we are destroying the
24 Earth and even the future of humanity by our insane
25 addiction to fossil fuels and our refusal to really

1 look at what is happening to our planet.

2 I know enough to know that the pipelines
3 you are considering adding to northern Minnesota
4 will do nothing to improve life in the long run,
5 only provide some temporary jobs to people now and
6 some permanent jobs to some when they're completed.
7 They will also put billions and billions of dollars
8 into the hands of the wealthy owners, stockholders,
9 and CEOs of Enbridge, BP, and other companies making
10 their fortunes from fossil fuels.

11 I also know enough to know that building
12 new pipelines and pipeline routes through Minnesota
13 is only going to destroy more forests, endanger more
14 wetlands, rivers, and lakes. And I know enough to
15 know that the end result of more pipelines is more
16 processing and burning of oil, which is what is
17 ultimately destroying our planet. And the sad thing
18 is I believe that everyone in this room knows that
19 too.

20 I hope that everyone here has given some
21 thought to the future we are handing down to our
22 children and grandchildren. If we continue on our
23 present path, in the very near future, whether it'll
24 be 20 years, 25 years or less, our children and
25 grandchildren are going to be suffering tremendously

1 from the havoc of climate change. And they will
2 know that we, at this time in history, could have
3 done something to turn things around, and we, for
4 whatever reason, chose not to.

5 We are a very intelligent and creative
6 people and we are capable of turning this entire
7 situation around. If we learn to conserve what we
8 have, to build smaller homes, use energy-efficient
9 appliances and vehicles, if we put the money, the
10 jobs, and the technology into turning from a country
11 dependent on oil, gas, and coal, run on renewable
12 energy such as solar and wind, our children could
13 inherit a world that they could survive and thrive
14 in. And then they will know that we did choose to
15 do something to secure their future.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Vicki.

18 Tom Watson is the next person up. And
19 after Tom I have Tania Aubid.

20 MR. TOM WATSON: Good afternoon. My name
21 is Tom Watson, spelled T-O-M, W-A-T-S-O-N. I forgot
22 to do that on Monday night.

23 I'm here as president of the Whitefish
24 Area Property Owners Association, which is based in
25 the Pine River Watershed area. Just by reference,

1 14,400 acres of water, it's part of the Pine River
2 Watershed, which is a half million acres of land and
3 water, through which Enbridge is proposing to send
4 the pipeline.

5 All you have to do is just focus on these
6 orange lines. And if you compare that to the
7 Enbridge maps in the back, you're going to find
8 there's probably two major lines that indicate how
9 it's going to impact the water. This looks at
10 creeks, streams, and other sources of water in this
11 whole area. It looks like the veins in my body, I
12 think, which is far more than any of the maps.

13 I'm looking at the ABCs of Environmental
14 Review, and I've been through a couple of these as a
15 public official myself. And it reads, The purpose
16 of the review is to provide information to the units
17 of government on the environmental impacts of a
18 project before approvals or necessary permits are
19 issued. The projects -- after the projects are
20 completed, unanticipated environmental consequences
21 can be very costly to undo, environmentally
22 sensitive areas can be impossible to restore.
23 Environmental review creates the opportunity to
24 anticipate and correct these problems before
25 projects are built.

1 My read of that as an old man is that
2 sounds like we ought to find a win/win situation
3 before we proceed much further in this whole matter.
4 With that in mind, I would like to reference
5 Administrative Rules 4410, and particularly two
6 options. One refers to alternatives, the major
7 subheading in that section of law.

8 And in the handout that we received, it
9 says here an EIS must compare potentially
10 significant impacts of the proposal and those of
11 other reasonable alternatives to the proposed
12 project. In other words, the purpose statement
13 that's been circulated is flawed if you apply this
14 particular Section 3.11 as part of the Minnesota
15 rules for an alternative analysis in an EIS. It's
16 not evaluating a plan to go to Superior, Wisconsin,
17 it's actually a plan to ship this oil from its
18 source to the East Coast, to the Gulf, and wherever
19 else it's going to go, as opposed to Superior,
20 Wisconsin.

21 My second comment has to do with the
22 environmental, economic, employment, and
23 sociological review that's part of this particular
24 plan, Section H. What I want to know, frankly, and
25 I think it's time for probably the Commerce

1 Department, PUC, somebody, to indicate who the
2 persons are that are going to be doing this review
3 and what their qualifications are to do
4 environmental, economic, employment, and
5 sociological reviews.

6 In other words, I understand there's been
7 contracts let to companies, but I also have never
8 seen one iota of information to indicate their
9 qualifications, other than we'll get the
10 qualifications once the first reports are provided.
11 That's the wrong time to do that.

12 I also want to suggest as part of the
13 scoping project that one not overlook work that's
14 been done in our area for many years. This happens
15 to be a piece called -- I will not leave this with
16 you but I'll put it in writing. It's called the
17 Sensitive Shoreline Survey, it happens to be of the
18 Whitefish Chain in Crow Wing County. I do know that
19 this particular work has been done through this part
20 of north central Minnesota a number of different
21 times. And I will point out to you the major
22 subject on this.

23 The report summarizes the results of the
24 animal, plant, and habitat surveys the DNR
25 conducted, an ecological model that was developed

1 from the compiled data. What it's basically looking
2 at is the interrelationship of all of these things.
3 It looked at the migratory birds, it does address
4 wildlife, it does address wild rice, it does address
5 plant materials, it does a wonderful job of pointing
6 that out. All I would do is show you in this
7 particular point, if you want to go to the DNR site
8 you can find it, little pieces of red that you find
9 are very, very sensitive shoreline. And those are
10 usually places where we're going to find migratory
11 birds, frogs, special species of fish that are
12 endangered and otherwise.

13 My last comment in all of this. If we're
14 going to get to win/win, and I've heard Enbridge
15 folks talk to that, they appeared at our
16 organization, we invited them to talk about a
17 win/win. And usually what that means, at least I've
18 been married 48 years and I've never won too many
19 times, but I do know that it means that I have to
20 talk and I have to be willing to compromise. I know
21 my wife's got three votes -- there's three votes in
22 my family, she's got two and I only get one. But
23 the fact of the matter is Enbridge has never
24 approached the rest of us about these concerns and
25 whether they're willing to sit down with us and

1 achieve a win/win.

2 My very last comment is in terms of the
3 risk analysis that needs to be done relative to
4 environmental, economic, employment, and
5 sociological impacts. There's nothing that's been
6 done with respect to that. I would suggest there
7 needs to be a consideration of risks. I spoke
8 Monday night about this crazy piece of propaganda
9 that came out of UMD. But in there there is no
10 words about reserves for any kind of remediation,
11 there's no reserves in there for any further
12 governmental action, there's no reserves in there
13 for further appeals, there's no reserves in there
14 for any liquidated damages relative to, quote,
15 anomalies and spills. Government people that are
16 working on these reviews for hours and hours and
17 days and days, repeatedly, repeatedly, guess who
18 pays for that? It doesn't cost Enbridge anything.
19 It does cost taxpayers of Minnesota a ton of money
20 to go through that.

21 The very last, we're all available to
22 negotiate. We're all available to negotiate.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Tom.
25 Tania. Is Tania in the room? After Tania we have

1 Veronica Skinaway.

2 MS. TANIA AUBID: She was giving my
3 instructions in Ojibwe.

4 My name is Tania Aubid, T-A-N-I-A,
5 A-U-B-I-D. My Ojibwe name is Biidwe Wegiiehkookwe,
6 B-I-I-D-W-E, W-E-G-I-I-E-H-K-G-O-O-K-W-E.

7 Today I am standing before you because I
8 believe our indigenous people are in distress.

9 United States government, the indigenous
10 people are in distress. Not only for our lands, but
11 for the animals and the water too, and the air that
12 we breathe.

13 Enbridge, shame on you for posting up on
14 the commercials how your family is benefiting from
15 clean energy. I believe that's bullshit. You
16 described the waters, the whole ecosystem. And for
17 the Commerce Department for allowing that.

18 Who does it benefit? The pipeline
19 workers? All people? Does it? Really? I was
20 scolded for being -- for taking -- for conserving my
21 energy at home in keeping my house warm. And for
22 what? Because I was not using enough propane or
23 electricity?

24 I am the daughter, the first daughter of
25 a chief of the southern tribe of the Ojibwe. And

1 I'm standing here before you to let you know that we
2 are not going to stand this anymore. Go ahead and
3 laugh at me if you must. Just remember, back in
4 1492 when Columbus came over with those three ships
5 of people that needed a place to go. And we
6 welcomed you as visitors to this land. Visitors.
7 We did not ask you to come over here and take over
8 our lands that we were protecting to have resources,
9 clean resources for our future generations and the
10 ones that come after us.

11 Our grandchildren and our future
12 grandchildren after them. Like one person said, we
13 think ahead seven times that, and we ask you to look
14 seven more times after that to the seventh power.
15 Because this is the only land that we have that's
16 going to sustain us and our future grandchildren.
17 And so that we can become ancestors. And like the
18 eagle feathers that I hold in my arms, some of them
19 are old, and yet these eagle feathers represent our
20 ancestors in letting us know that they are watching
21 us and they are protecting us. And those messengers
22 from the Creator are being sent every day.

23 You notice that a lady who was up here,
24 she was crying because she heard of the stuff that
25 was going on in White Earth, but that's going on

1 throughout our lands. You got to remember, the
2 state of Minnesota was made in 1858. Our treaties
3 for this land was back in 1855.

4 Now, as a resident of a federal
5 government, you cannot, I repeat, you cannot trample
6 on our usufructuary rights. Meaning that you cannot
7 take away our food, land, or waters, or desecrate
8 any of our religious sites.

9 Throughout the United States, all of the
10 lands that accompany that are our ceremonial sites,
11 our religious sites. We cannot put on paper for you
12 what is ceremonial and what is not. I do not go
13 into your churches and say, hey, you got to do it
14 this way or you got to do it that way. That would
15 be a desecration amongst your religion.

16 I know that there's going to be three
17 people in Aitkin County and Carlton County that are
18 going to be working full time for Enbridge, or for
19 this pipeline. Why so little? And why is it only
20 people controlled when you train these people when
21 there is a spill that happens. Since there's enough
22 oil in our reserves, why is there a need to keep
23 pushing oil through the lines? Price of gas is
24 still at a high as opposed to what the economy
25 wants, lower prices.

1 SA-04 can run south, then up onto SA-06.
2 That's what I would recommend. But even better yet
3 is not to put any pipelines through or make any more
4 damages to the earth.

5 Along the pipelines that run there is
6 those plants that you can't even go out to pick
7 Indian medicines out there because you get like
8 third degree burns. That is not satisfactory in my
9 eyes.

10 You keep cutting down the trees. And we
11 need clean air. How are we going to be able to
12 survive without the clean air, much less the fishes
13 that swim in the waters? They cannot survive in
14 that also.

15 With that, I will say miigwech.

16 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Tania.

17 I have Veronica Skinaway. And after
18 Veronica I have Audrey -- I don't know how to say
19 your name. Tsinnie.

20 MS. VERONICA SKINAWAY: Good afternoon,
21 everybody. My name is Bezhi Gobine Siikwe, English
22 translation, that's One Thunderbird Woman. And my
23 English name is Veronica Skinaway. Last name,
24 S-K-I-N-A-W-A-Y.

25 COURT REPORTER: Can you spell your

1 Ojibwe name?

2 MS. VERONICA SKINAWAY: Yes. B-E-Z-H-I,
3 G-O-B-I-N-E, S-I-I-K-W-E.

4 All right. And I'd like to begin to say
5 it is an honor for me to be here, to be able to
6 speak openly. Well, I believe that allowing the
7 pipeline is an infringement of our rights here as
8 people, as humans.

9 And I just want to basically tell you who
10 I am and where I come from. I am from the historic
11 Sandy Lake Band. I am a direct descendant of
12 hereditary Chief Hole In The Day. My people have
13 been here since the 1730s. Since we pushed the
14 Dakotas out, to be exact. That's nearly 300 years.

15 I am a champion Manoomin wild rice
16 harvester here in McGregor, Sandy Lake Reservation.
17 I live right on the lake here. I see the lake every
18 day. I am a mother to three gorgeous daughters.
19 And with this, I also provide -- I provide Manoomin
20 to 50-plus people, each of being from -- 50-plus
21 people from three different reservations, four
22 different cities. This helps us to sustain a
23 healthy, balanced life.

24 And I just want to begin by saying that
25 people forget who aboriginal indigenous people are

1 and what they mean to the United States. A lot of
2 people will say can't you just forget about the
3 past? Can't you guys just move on? Can't you guys
4 just be Americanized like the rest of us, like the
5 American society?

6 America was built on genocide. It was
7 built on an unspoken indigenous holocaust. That's
8 not taught in our schools. Like a foreign,
9 nonexistent race. But through the 524 years of
10 assimilation and extinction of the original
11 aboriginal peoples. Do you guys know of the, you
12 know, the photo of the Land O'Lakes, right? The
13 American Indian? Do you guys know the history of
14 it? The photo?

15 Well, before it was Americanized to fit
16 the American society, the actual picture and the
17 history of it was actually three women, one being
18 Ojibwe. And this was before 1920. This
19 corporation, this was a business corporation led by
20 three women, Manoomin harvesters. The woman that
21 you see in the photo, it was Manoomin in that basket
22 before it was Americanized to fit the American
23 society.

24 Now think. Before 1920 this has existed.
25 You know, those harvesters, they owned their own

1 corporation back then. Imagine that, three women
2 aboriginal women. You know, this history that I
3 saved, you know, it shows a lot of how we -- of how
4 we ceased to exist here. You know, we have our
5 great migration story where Manoomin has saved us,
6 the Ojibwe people, the aboriginal people.

7 You know, allowing this pipeline,
8 allowing any pipelines to come through here or to be
9 resurrected, you know, it would be -- it would be a
10 repetition of the indigenous holocaust here. We
11 can't allow that to come through. What about my
12 daughters? What about my grandchildren? What about
13 their grandchildren? I oppose this.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you,
16 Veronica.

17 Audrey Tsinnie. After Audrey I have
18 Michaa Aubid.

19 MS. AUDREY TSINNIE: Good afternoon. My
20 name is Audrey Tsinnie, A-U-D-R-E-Y, T-S-I-N-N-I-E.

21 I'm two types of Indian. Navajo from the
22 Four Corners down in the Southwest, my father is
23 Grand Portage Chippewa from the North Shore. I live
24 in Minnesota, love it here.

25 I am a professional pipeliner and I'm

1 becoming more and more proud of that every day. I'm
2 an American, and that's what I consider myself more
3 than anything. We're all American. We all utilize
4 petroleum products and I'm really proud of that.

5 I think that I am not able to ride on
6 horseback everywhere I go. I appreciate people that
7 are able to sustain themselves that way. And I just
8 feel like there's a lot to learn. And we value our
9 times as pipeliners, and I know some of the projects
10 that I've watched over, I encourage more monitoring
11 to help alleviate some of the concerns and a lot of
12 the pollution and things like that that you worry
13 about.

14 And I'm open to talking to people, and
15 telling and sharing information, because I think
16 that there's more involved into what we do and
17 provide. And it's really hard, I think, to take
18 time out of my life, I value my time because I
19 really enjoy and love what I do for a living. It
20 helps bring us a lot of things that we use every day
21 and it seems like we gloss over those facts.

22 It brings me a lifestyle that helps me
23 nurture and bring a work ethic to my children. I
24 appreciate the ability to put my kids through school
25 and show them the values and morals of what we need

1 to keep from bringing drugs and alcohol and other
2 things that contribute to suicide and the downfall
3 of our history.

4 I really think that pipelines don't cause
5 cancer, they don't bring illnesses. When I go in
6 for my checkups they don't tell me that I have any
7 contamination or issues from dealing with products
8 carried in these lines. I feel so strongly that
9 they are not dangerous, you know, and I feel like I
10 spend enough time early in the morning and late at
11 night and I talk with people that really research
12 and contribute to making these pipelines sound.
13 They bring us products that we use and I think that
14 we need more of them. I honestly do.

15 They supply water lines. Instead of
16 using sewer systems around the lakes that we value,
17 we should bring in water lines through pipeline. We
18 need to start looking at how this can promote our
19 lives and how to maintain a sewage system. And I
20 think that we need to get with the times and be
21 progressive in what we do. You know, instead of
22 talking about losing our way, let's hold hands, move
23 through this, and try to build a better America.

24 You know, we can still say who we are and
25 be true to what we are about. I'm Navajo. When I

1 was starting out as a pipeliner, I'd go and I'd do
2 my prayers with our medicine men. So I do
3 appreciate being centered and balanced and not
4 wasting and polluting and taking away what we need.
5 I wouldn't be a pipeliner if I weren't able to
6 guarantee that. And every day I go on the lines and
7 I monitor and make sure that we adhere to all these
8 standards, DNR, state, tribal, federal, we go over
9 and beyond. And I think you need to challenge
10 ourself and realize what standards there are, you
11 know, instead of talking about this illness, suicide
12 rates, get the facts, bring those from the doctors.
13 How can we remedy and fix these?

14 You know, we need to bring our way of
15 life, I agree, but I'm strong in my feeling of being
16 pro pipeline. I've had medicine men encourage me
17 and tell me I have a bright future, I am
18 contributing to society and I need to keep that up.
19 That's what brings me here today. My heart is here.
20 I'm not here worried about bringing anybody in
21 political office, I'm not trying to take and endorse
22 anybody. I feel like we endorse ourselves, is what
23 we believe in and who we are. And I'm proud of who
24 I am. I'm proud of my accomplishments. I have
25 contributed to monitoring a lot of these pipelines.

1 Enbridge sets the standards. They use the best of
2 manpower, they use professional pipeliners that have
3 years and years and years of experience. And I
4 think they're doing a really good job, better than a
5 lot of other places in the United States, especially
6 in swampy areas. I've worked in Florida, I've
7 worked in Mississippi, I've worked in Louisiana and
8 Wisconsin. They set the standards for keeping those
9 pipelines stable.

10 We have natural shifting of the ground,
11 geophysicists will determine and tell you that we
12 have, you know, not just fracking, but natural earth
13 movement, and that's what causes some of the
14 pollution in the oil. Nobody talks about that. But
15 expand your mind, expand your education, and learn a
16 little bit about things. I challenge you. Because
17 every day that I work I challenge myself.

18 Thank you for your time. Miigwech.

19 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Audrey.

20 Michaa Aubid. And then we have Patrick
21 Wussow. Michaa represents -- oh, boy. This is the
22 23rd person. We have 27 total.

23 MR. MICHAA AUBID: Hello. Boozhoo,
24 everybody. Michaa Aubid, M-I-C-H-A-A, A-U-B-I-D.

25 I was born and raised here in Aitkin

1 County, been here my whole life.

2 One of the things that I just want to
3 bring up here to make everyone that is here aware,
4 possibly one of the reasons why we're here in East
5 Lake and perhaps not in McGregor or Aitkin where
6 some of the more greater populus areas in the county
7 are. Back in March, the United States EPA wrote a
8 letter to the PUC and other parties involved in this
9 project, noting to them that, you know, Indian, you
10 know, involvement in the project, you know, is
11 critical to the moving forward of this process.

12 Now, we've had these type of meetings for
13 about two years now, and way back in some of the
14 first ones there on the fancy graphs, you know,
15 there was never tribal involvement in any of the
16 processes that were described in this Sandpiper and
17 Line 3. So, you know, in essence, the EPA just put
18 everyone on notice, that you know, hey, you know, we
19 could oversee this process but we choose not to
20 right now. And basically they're going to have a
21 watch and see, and when the process is complete, you
22 know, the EPA will determine if tribal, you know,
23 consultation and other involvement was adequate for
24 federal standards.

25 So I just wanted to bring that up

1 briefly. And like I say, explain perhaps why we're
2 here in East Lake to make sure that they can say,
3 well, some of the Indian people were heard from and
4 they have been from today.

5 So the other concern that I want to bring
6 up, we've heard a lot of people talk about it, you
7 know, in our realm of the world, is the rights that
8 we have as Indian people. Now, who in this process
9 is going to determine what the impact of this
10 pipeline has on these Indian treaty rights, and
11 which agency involved in these graphs is going to
12 determine it? Is it the DNR, the MPCA, the PUC,
13 tribal governments that are involved in the
14 consultation?

15 So it's kind of interesting to me, you
16 know, which aspect, you know, is going to be
17 defining, you know, what these Indian rights are,
18 what the impacts are upon these rights that this
19 project has. And in the end, hopefully, you know,
20 everything is signed, sealed and delivered once the
21 EPA and eventually the Army Corps of Engineers, you
22 know, as the final signatories to this process.

23 So, you know, in essence, to many of
24 these meetings over two years, you know, it's not
25 only these Indian concerns that are coming up. You

1 know, I hear a lot from citizens, local governments,
2 and others that bring up a lot of these critical
3 issues that revolve around many of the same things
4 that Indian people are talking about, you know. The
5 water, the lakes, you know, the property that, you
6 know, is diminished when these pipelines come
7 through our valued area and property hubs such as
8 Sandy Lake. Now, one of the reasons that Sandy Lake
9 isn't described as much is because it doesn't cross
10 directly over. I believe someone had mentioned
11 today, you know, if you know anything about the area
12 here, you know, where the pipeline crosses the Sandy
13 River, you know, two times, and runs through the
14 federal reservoir area, you know, of Sandy Lake dam
15 that the Army Corps runs, you know, all of the water
16 spills from the Sandy Lake eventually through this
17 area. So, you know, it's a great concern not only
18 to the Indian people, to the citizens of the county,
19 you know, and all parties, you know, that live here
20 on a daily basis, not fly-by-nights, and run a quick
21 meeting hoping that, you know, everything is
22 legitimate and they can rubber stamp it in the end.
23 You know, I believe that all citizens, you know,
24 should have a say in this process. And hopefully in
25 the end when this process is complete, you know, the

1 citizens feel, Indian and non-Indian alike, feel
2 comfortable in that we were heard, everything was
3 legitimately carried through here, and in the end,
4 you know, the values of the people living in these
5 areas, you know, can be reflected in what decision
6 that finally is made.

7 And, you know, as we've been saying for
8 two years around here, you know, we oppose it, and
9 the answer is no to us.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Michaa.

12 By the way, even though we have 27, we'll
13 keep taking cards, we'll be here. Natalie keeps
14 funneling them up to me.

15 Thank you, Patrick, for showing up.
16 After Patrick we have Korey Northrup.

17 MR. PATRICK WUSSOW: Hello. My name is
18 Patrick Wussow, P-A-T-R-I-C-K, W-U-S-S-O-W.

19 I am speaking directly to the Sandpiper
20 pipeline project. I appreciate the process that has
21 been adopted by the state of Minnesota to take
22 public comment and make final decision and to listen
23 to the different proposals. I also respect the
24 comments provided today.

25 I currently live in the city of Brainerd,

1 but before that for some years I lived in Aitkin
2 County and I had the opportunity to listen to and
3 talk with Enbridge about their proposal. With that
4 said, I'd like to make it publicly known that I
5 support the Sandpiper pipeline project.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Patrick.

8 The next person up is Korey Northrup.

9 And after Korey I've got Scott Cramer.

10 MS. KOREY NORTHRUP: Korey Northrup,
11 K-O-R-E-Y, N-O-R-T-H-R-U-P. Boozhoo. Also my name
12 is Misko Biineskw. Do you want me to spell that?
13 M-I-S-K-O, something, there's like a B in there.
14 There's a B in there. B-I-I-N-E-S-K-W. No, two
15 i's. With two i's.

16 Okay. So as I'm trying to like get
17 through this, I just want to first open up with
18 this, like, assimilation thing. You've heard about
19 assimilation tonight. There is a product of forced
20 assimilation right there. I can't even spell my own
21 name.

22 So, you know, I just -- I grew up in
23 society, in American society. And I've always been
24 looked down upon because I'm different from them.
25 And I always wanted to just be like them. I just

1 wanted to consume oil and wear pretty makeup and cry
2 about pimples. And it just didn't work out that way
3 because I chose to be Native American before I was
4 born. I chose that path. I chose the path to want
5 the society that is American.

6 And then one day I came home, I went to a
7 powwow, came home, found my family. My family found
8 me. And they said, hey, you know, you're Indian,
9 you might as well just come and be Indian, come over
10 here. And I did. And through that I learned a lot
11 about myself and about the fact that inside of me is
12 one thing that cannot be ever diminished. One thing
13 inside me that will never, ever, ever be quiet. And
14 that's the part of me that says it is not okay to
15 poison water. It is not okay to have cultural
16 genocide, even in this day and age. I'm 35 years
17 old and I'm here to tell you I lived through forced
18 assimilation and I survived. And I'm here to stand
19 here as Native American, as an enrolled member of
20 the Fond du Lac Band, to say that, you know, as our
21 culture and our society dictates, we're here to take
22 care of this planet. And we will do that.

23 I want to thank everybody for being here.
24 These are the most brown faces that I've seen at any
25 of these meetings. So let's have a round of

1 applause for all the brown faces. Brown power,
2 baby.

3 So I don't think this pipeline should be
4 here at all. Most of the maps that I looked at, it
5 goes through wetlands. In learning how to
6 decolonize, I was able to host a sugar bush this
7 year, and the sugar bush happened to be on the
8 Enbridge corridor where their pipelines stick out.
9 Their protective coating is flaking off, you know.
10 It looks like that snake is shedding its skin. And
11 that scares me. You know, what is leaking into the
12 water that goes and feeds those trees that I use to
13 feed my elders and my children? That's not --
14 that's not sound, like, oh, we're going to put this
15 under the ground and it's going to stay there. No,
16 it's not. We see it every day when we go to use our
17 rights to harvest.

18 So I am implore you to understand that
19 it's not just us that we fight for, we fight for you
20 too, and your families, and your generations. And
21 we just want to all live together and save what we
22 have left so we can all share it and, you know,
23 maybe have a powwow or two, you know, whatever.

24 So thank you very much.

25 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Korey.

1 Scott Cramer. And after Scott I've got
2 Phillip Wallace.

3 MR. SCOTT CRAMER: Scott Cramer. Cramer
4 is C-R-A-M-E-R.

5 I want to speak to history, vision, and
6 wisdom. Many of the things said here today will
7 never leave this room effectively. We know that.
8 We've been to these before. But in human history we
9 come to crossroads. Many times it's issues of war
10 and peace. And in this society people have to
11 decide which way to go. Those choices then affect
12 generations to come.

13 We're at a crossroads. We're at multiple
14 crossroads today. And the choices are between short
15 term and long term. And long term is survival.
16 Short term is the four minutes of air before you
17 die, the three days of water, without it which you
18 will die. Long term is 10,000 years ago this land
19 right here was covered with 2,000 feet of ice. And
20 all of our lakes that were formed because of
21 glaciers that were here in a very cold, long period.
22 And we know those cycles come and go, just as we
23 come and go in the blink of an eye in geologic time.

24 I've been a property owner on Glacier
25 Lake next to Big Sandy for 25 years. I've been a

1 successful businessman for 37 years. I hope to
2 retire up here next year.

3 I want to speak briefly to our county
4 commissioners and state rep who I believe all
5 support this project, and I will happily support
6 anyone who wants to run against them financially.
7 We need to use our political power that there be a
8 consequence in supporting short-term projects,
9 frankly, sited in a disastrous location. There are
10 better locations, but there's actually better
11 alternatives. And until we broaden the question of
12 what resources we're going to use or develop, we
13 will only answer a short, small question. Oh,
14 here's a better route, go ahead and do it. No,
15 here's a better future, go ahead and do it.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you.

18 Next up is Phillip Wallace. And after
19 Phillip I've got Debra -- beautiful handwriting -- I
20 can't read it, it starts with a T.

21 MS. DEBRA TOPPING: Topping.

22 MR. PHILLIP WALLACE: My name is Phillip
23 Wallace, P-H-I-L-L-I-P, W-A-L-L-A-C-E.

24 I'm a pipeliner and I'm here in support
25 of this project. You know, I'm a good pipeliner.

1 I'm not very good at this speaking part. But, you
2 know, Minnesota, you know, is the Land of 10,000
3 Lakes. I've written this down just by sitting in
4 the audience listening to everybody's concerns.

5 You know, the Land of 10,000 Lakes, it's
6 a beautiful state, with clean water, fish, and
7 wildlife. And this state also has many pipelines
8 transporting liquid products that everyone needs in
9 their everyday life. Not just in Minnesota, but the
10 entire planet can't survive without natural gas or
11 petroleum products. You know, my wish is someday
12 our grandchildren will live without fossil fuels,
13 but that won't happen in my lifetime.

14 I've worked in the pipeline industry as a
15 welder helper, then pipeline welder for 31 years,
16 the last 10 years as a business agent in the states
17 of North Dakota and Minnesota. That's 41 years as a
18 pipeliner. And I have seen this industry change
19 drastically on how pipelines are built and welded.

20 But Enbridge does the most strenuous
21 welding programs in the world. Before you weld on
22 any Enbridge project you have to pass a series of
23 weld tests. And not all welders can weld for
24 Enbridge. Only the best. My job is to get the
25 right welders for the right job on any pipeline job.

1 The purpose of these scoping meetings is
2 to help the Department of Commerce to get ideas to
3 put an EIS in place for the Utility Commission to
4 decide the fate of the Sandpiper and Line 3
5 replacement.

6 I have no comment on the route of these
7 new pipelines, but I do have comments for protecting
8 the environment and public safety. The American
9 crude from the Bakken fields in North Dakota will
10 get to market one way or another. It's being
11 transported now by the most dangerous and damaging
12 ways I know to the environment and to the public,
13 public safety. And that's by rail and truck. But I
14 will be the first to admit that also it's being
15 transported by outdated pipelines that have been in
16 the ground for 50 to 60 years, you know. And they
17 need to be replaced with new, state-of-the-art
18 pipelines, with the newest technology and the best
19 materials available today, like the Sandpiper and
20 Line 3 replacement. We need this American crude.
21 And our friends to the north can make Canadian crude
22 to stop pouring American dollars to the OPEC
23 countries that have had us at their beck and call
24 for my entire life.

25 If you can deal with train wrecks, like

1 most of the opposition of the pipeline spills, you
2 can read about the crude train wreck that crashed
3 and burned in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec that burned the
4 entire town and killed 47 humans. That's one train
5 wreck. And the crude train crash that exploded and
6 spilled in one of West Virginia's major rivers. So
7 you say crude trains, crude trucks, are safe to the
8 environment and public safety, I don't believe that
9 at all.

10 Every day these Enbridge projects are
11 delayed, more rail cars are being built. So please
12 let us do our job and build these pipelines. You
13 know, we just can't survive without pipelines. You
14 know, if you think you can, turn your lights off,
15 turn your water off. You know, park your car, stop
16 buying that fossil fuel if you think you can survive
17 without it. Our farmers, you know, they can't farm
18 without diesel fuel. You know, quit riding in
19 planes, trains, and automobiles. But, you know,
20 it's just -- we just can't survive without fossil
21 fuels. Some day I hope we do, but right now is not
22 the time.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Phillip.

25 Okay. The next person up is Debra

1 Topping. And after Debra we have Keenan Gonzales.

2 MS. DEBRA TOPPING: I swear to tell the
3 whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me.

4 Boozhoo. My name is Debra Topping,
5 D-E-B-R-A, T-O-P-P-I-N-G. Miigwech for being here.

6 I never know what I'm going to say when I
7 get up here, so I know every morning, though, I say
8 my oath and I talk to the Creator and I say my
9 miigwech.

10 I've listened to everybody talk. I've
11 heard what you all had to say. Some I've been
12 really encouraged about. Yeah, woohoo, let's do
13 this. Others, I've thought, wow, I wonder how much
14 they're making.

15 A couple things I want to talk about.
16 Pipeline 3 abandonment. That, wow, how do you
17 abandon? That just doesn't make sense to me, all
18 right? So we're going to just leave this pipeline
19 here for my children, your children, to fix, right?
20 Yay, let's do that. That makes a lot of sense.

21 So, no, we don't -- I -- I don't want
22 that on Fond du Lac Reservation, where I come from.
23 Knowing that this is on public dockets, that my
24 grandchildren are going to read what I say. Holy,
25 man. I'm not a public speaker. Help them.

1 But I do want them to know that this
2 shirt protecting us since 1492, that's what we are,
3 this is our land. And since 1492 we've always had
4 the police here. Are they here for our protection?
5 Are you here for our protection? Or are you here
6 for Enbridge's protection? Wow.

7 I've talked to a couple people here and
8 asked them who invited them. Did you invite them?
9 I mean, I want to make sure, you know, if the rest
10 invited them, I don't want to step on anybody's
11 toes. You know, yay, let's protect us. Really, are
12 you here to protect us?

13 So that's what I want my grandchildren to
14 know, that the police are here. Who are they
15 protecting?

16 Standards. You talked about standards of
17 the pipeline. Tell that to Kalamazoo. I've finally
18 realized what that means, sleeping with the enemy.
19 Wow, that's kind of an interesting topic, how does
20 one -- until I looked up, I looked up the DNR and
21 what they do. Oh, okay. I got the big picture,
22 another epiphany, sleeping with the enemy. Got it.
23 I didn't know that. I was blissfully ignorant.
24 Like you said, maybe I need to go a little bit more
25 school and educate myself. But I did educate myself

1 on that and, wow, that was an eyeopener.

2 I've attended many meetings. You said,
3 you know, you get up and you go to work every single
4 day and you work for the pipeline. And, yay, you
5 know, my husband does the same, he's worked for the
6 mines. And he said, geez, Deb, you know, I work for
7 the mines. I know, I understand. We all got to pay
8 our bills. I get that. I get that. I get that I
9 like to go to the grocery store and drive my truck
10 there and get my food. I get that.

11 But realistically, we need to start
12 looking somewhere else. All of these renewable
13 energies. Don't go across our 10,000 lakes.

14 So miigwech for having these. Miigwech
15 for coming. I don't know about you, but miigwech
16 that you're here too.

17 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Debra.

18 Keenan Gonzales is the next person up.

19 MR. KEENAN GONZALES: My name is Keenan
20 Gonzales. That's K-E-E-N-A-N, G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-S.

21 Just a little brief bio about my
22 background. And the last name ends with an S, my
23 great-grandmother taught me to spell. And my roots,
24 I am the first grandson of the heredity Chief
25 Mishkoo (phonetic), now passed.

1 But enough of that. I'd like to kind of
2 get to my point. And my point would be the
3 so-called fossil fuels, is that statement is BS.
4 Oil came from the plants, because plants have more
5 biomass than all the dinosaurs, all the dinosaurs
6 combined, even the ones in the ocean. It's only a
7 small fraction to that of the trees. You know, they
8 were so tall, man, they could touch the skies. But
9 that was a long time ago. All those oil reserves,
10 that's when it was a large forest, a megaforest.
11 And when was oil discovered? 1859. That's 180
12 [sic] years before coal was discovered in France.
13 But Chinese have been using that for over 3,000
14 years.

15 Now, since the discovery of oil, we're
16 living in 2016. That is 157 years later. We have
17 pretty much come to the point where we need a new
18 fuel source. What is that fuel source? Biofuels.
19 Corn, marijuana, that can be turned in biofuels and
20 ethanol. Geothermic energy, we turn the heat from
21 the core into energy. Iceland is powered by that,
22 all of Iceland. They're ahead of us. And we're
23 called the freest country in the world. That's BS.
24 A third of our population is in prison. But enough
25 of that. It's beside the point. Marijuana can be

1 grown in all 50 states. Indoors, some outdoors, in
2 each state.

3 And you know how everyone says that, you
4 know, South America, you know, Africa, those are the
5 lungs of the earth 'cause they're closer, that's
6 more of the lower frame of the lungs, where we
7 inhale oxygen while we sleep in the lower part of
8 our lungs. Our diaphragm, when we take in that big
9 inhale of oxygen, that's the northern part of the
10 forest. They're the ones that hibernate for winter
11 and fall and then grow again in the spring. So more
12 carbon goes to the north and the south, like
13 breathing in our body. And pretty much pines give
14 us oxygen for free. They get rid of carbon dioxide
15 for free. Can you argue with free? No, you can't.

16 And this is all I really have to say as a
17 young person, and I would like to leave everyone
18 with one quote by one man. He's long been dead. He
19 was an artist and an actor. His name is Tupac
20 Shakur. And I quote, They don't give a fuck about
21 us, end quote. What does that mean? The one
22 percent, they don't care about you, you, or any of
23 you. Your grandchildren, too. They could say all
24 that they want, that's just the first mask. The
25 first mask you wear in public. The second mask you

1 wear around your friends and family. The third mask
2 you wear alone. That's what the Japanese believe.
3 They believe we all walk around the world wearing
4 three masks in our lifetime. I have just shown you
5 my second and third. What about the one percent?

6 That is all. Thank you, miigwech for
7 everything. Have a good day, everyone. You, too,
8 officers.

9 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you.

10 Janet needs to take a break for her
11 wrists. So look at your watch, add 15 minutes and
12 we'll come back. According to my watch, that's
13 2:02.

14 (Break taken.)

15 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: We're going to
16 start back. We're starting back. We have two more
17 cards remaining, and then what we'd like to do is
18 reserve the speaker's chair, if you will, for those
19 who haven't spoken before. We want to make sure
20 that if someone has the desire to do so, that they
21 have that opportunity to do so. And as a reminder,
22 you can submit your comments to -- there's every way
23 from Sunday, right? You can do it online, you can
24 fax it in, write it today and put it in the box and
25 so forth. So I want to accommodate that.

1 All right. So is Lynn Mizner in the
2 room? Did I say it incorrectly? And after Lynn I
3 have David Aubid.

4 MS. LYNN MIZNER: Hello. My name is Lynn
5 Mizner, L-Y-N-N, M-I-Z-N-E-R.

6 I'm a trained scientist, a natural
7 resources professional. I work for the Minnesota
8 Department of Natural Resources. I'm here on my own
9 time today and not representing the DNR.

10 And as you all know, these hearings are
11 the scoping for the environmental impact statement,
12 and just -- I think, you know, we all feel emotional
13 about this in one way or another. And I just wanted
14 to say that if I focus my comments strictly on that
15 topic, the environmental impact statement, I think
16 that's really what we're here for and what people
17 want to communicate about today.

18 And the reason that we are having an
19 environmental impact statement is because the
20 Minnesota Supreme Court decided that there was a
21 likely impact of this project. So if there was no
22 likely impact there would not be a proposed
23 environmental impact statement. So that is the
24 assumption, that there will be an impact.

25 Now, we have opinions out there.

1 Enbridge has an opinion that there will be no
2 environmental impact and that they are taking all
3 the precautions they can to make this safe. But
4 there's no proof of that. In fact, there's a large
5 body of proof that pipelines do leak. And every
6 environment that a pipeline goes through is
7 different. So you can't say because we built all
8 these pipelines and they were okay that it will be
9 okay in this environment. And I personally do not
10 believe that it will be okay.

11 We have wetlands here that are very
12 fragile. I'm a farmer in this area and when someone
13 drives across my field with a tractor when it's too
14 wet, those tracks are there 10 years later. That's
15 how fragile our land is. And when they build a
16 pipeline, they inspect that pipeline 23 times a
17 year. They're not walking to do that. They're
18 driving, they're flying over sometimes, they have
19 their smart pigs and that kind of thing. But these
20 are fragile environments. And I just wanted to read
21 something that's an international understanding of
22 how these situations should be handled when there's
23 so much uncertainty. And I think this is really
24 important. And I will be submitting written
25 comments, but I just wanted to share this.

1 So let me just find it here. So what I
2 think applies in this situation, and this is
3 supported by international law, is the precautionary
4 principle. And what that means is if an action or
5 policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the
6 public or to the environment, in the absence of
7 scientific consensus that the action or policy is
8 not harmful, the burden of proof that it is not
9 harmful falls on those taking the action that may or
10 not be a risk. This principle implies that there is
11 a social responsibility to protect the public from
12 exposure to harm. These protections can be relaxed
13 only if further scientific findings emerge that
14 provide sound evidence that no harm will result.

15 So, to me, that means that Enbridge, or
16 whatever they call themselves now, has the burden to
17 prove that there's no chance that these pipelines
18 will leak. There's no chance that our wild rice and
19 our rivers and our wetlands will be harmed. And I
20 believe that the State of Minnesota needs to hold
21 them to that.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, Lynn.

24 The next person up is David Aubid. Is
25 David still in the room? After that I will ask for,

1 you know, anyone who has not had the opportunity to
2 speak and would like to speak, we will make
3 accommodations for you.

4 MR. DAVID AUBID: David Miib Aubid.
5 M-I-I-B, A-U-B-I-D. And do you need any other
6 information?

7 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: It's good.

8 MR. DAVID AUBID: I'm glad to see
9 everyone here. David Aubid, for those of you who
10 don't know me. I grew up within a mile and a half
11 of here and have spent my whole life here, and also
12 spent some time living on Big Sandy Lake.

13 And currently, I suppose you could think
14 about my role here as an elected official of the
15 federally recognized Mille Lacs Band, but I'm not
16 really here, you know, to talk about that. I guess
17 I'm here, you know, to express some gratitude, you
18 know, of this opportunity. Had it not been for
19 Friends of the Mississippi and the Minnesota Supreme
20 Court, I guess we wouldn't have this opportunity to
21 say a few words regarding the proposed pipeline
22 work.

23 You know, I also wanted to say that, you
24 know, I'm grateful for this opportunity because I
25 feel like it's been 500 years that, you know, we've

1 been waiting to give this message, you know, to the
2 powers that be, such as Enbridge and others that
3 need to hear it. And having this opportunity, you
4 know, the Anishinabe here, I know that you all know
5 what I'm saying, but those of you non-Indians there,
6 you know, I'm sure glad that I have this one chance
7 to just give you a simple message today.

8 You know, if I was able to -- if I was
9 able to shed, you know, this skin that I have, this
10 mask, as my nephew put it there earlier, my
11 great-nephew there, you can see what this message is
12 all about. And I'm not Clark Kent, although, you
13 know, I wish I had Superman powers to stop Enbridge
14 here.

15 You know, as an Anishinabe, you know, I
16 was fortunate to be able to spend 16 years teaching
17 at UMD, four years teaching at Fond du Lac Tribal
18 and Community College, and the last couple years,
19 last year and a half now being a representative of
20 the people of -- the Native people of Aitkin County.
21 And, you know, like I said earlier, I feel like I
22 have waited 500 years to give Enbridge and other
23 people this message so I hope you can hear me.

24 You know, as an educator, you know, I was
25 able to teach American Indian history, other

1 classes, sociology, whatever you have related to
2 American Indian studies. Most important to me is
3 culture and language, Anishinabe language. You
4 know, so if I can teach you one word today it would
5 be gaawiin. Everybody repeat after me, gaawiin.

6 UNIDENTIFIEDS: Gaawiin.

7 MR. DAVID AUBID: Thank you. Okay. Now
8 that we've thought about the word gaawiin, it means
9 no. So here we go. Anishinabe, gaawiin.

10 UNIDENTIFIEDS: Gaawiin.

11 MR. DAVID AUBID: (Ojibwe.)

12 UNIDENTIFIEDS: Gaawiin.

13 MR. DAVID AUBID: So for conclusion, I
14 hope that you can understand some Ojibwe and at
15 least gaawiin.

16 Miigwech. Thank you.

17 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you, David.

18 Is there someone in the room that hasn't
19 had the opportunity to speak that would like to
20 speak?

21 Okay. There are people --

22 Oh, yes, sir.

23 MR. TERRY KEMPER: (Ojibwe.) So my name
24 is Terry Kemper, and I know they have these rules up
25 here. And Anishinabe, I'm just here to tell you

1 that I appreciate the grandmothers, the
2 grandfathers. For me as an Anishinabe it's about my
3 culture. And I think that's what all of us as
4 Anishinabe people have been talking about. It's
5 about culture.

6 You come to our reservation, you come
7 here in your ways, but I'm giving you my ways, okay?
8 Our ways is about -- my ways is about love and
9 helping each other out. Our ways is about coming
10 together the way we did when these treaties were
11 made, we came together and allowed certain things to
12 happen because we had love for all human beings.

13 I go out in the woods and I sing to the
14 trees. I sing to the water. I find love there. I
15 can't sing to a pipeline and find love. I'm sorry,
16 I can't do it.

17 So what I'd like to do right now is sing
18 to my grandmothers here in this room. And sing to
19 our people, because I appreciate you. And I
20 appreciate everybody that comes here to voice an
21 opinion.

22 (Singing.)

23 Miigwech.

24 MS. BARBARA TUCKNER: Thank you.

25 I think that concludes, we have invited

1 people up that haven't been up before. Anybody
2 else?

3 All right. We will be here to speak to
4 you one-on-one if you'd like to do so. The people
5 from the DNR, PCA, PUC, and MPCA will be here if
6 you'd like to talk with them, as well as Enbridge.
7 And we wish you well.

8 Thank you so much for coming out today.
9 We greatly appreciate it. Safe journeys to all of
10 you.

11 (Meeting concluded.)

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