



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

May 19, 2018

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House
Room 463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 187, House File 3759, a bill that requires that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) permit the building of Enbridge Energy's Line 3 crude oil pipeline project across northern Minnesota. This bill negates the PUC process to determine whether the Line 3 pipeline project is needed in Minnesota, and, if so, which route would be the least harmful to our state.

This bill preempts the long-standing PUC process, which has been established in law, and which has been used for years to make those complex and controversial decisions. Thousands of Minnesotans, represented by tribal governments, labor unions, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders have participated in this process with Enbridge and state agencies to provide input to the PUC for this important decision. The PUC is the appropriate venue to consider all of the data, science, and technical expertise that have been developed and shared about this project to make a determination about whether the project is needed for the benefit of our state. This bill requires the PUC to permit Enbridge to construct the Line 3 pipeline on the company's preferred route, disregarding input from many stakeholders and circumventing the Commission's authority.

Furthermore, this bill is unnecessary, as the PUC is nearing the end of its deliberative decision-making process on this project. The Administrative Law Judge issued her report on April 23, 2018, which summarized the massive volume of public input received in this case, and provided her recommendations to the PUC. The record before the PUC is now complete, and the Commission has scheduled oral arguments and deliberations on need and route beginning June 18, 2018. This bill eliminates the input of thousands of Minnesotans who have participated in the process by attending public meetings and hearings, writing comments, or otherwise engaging in the process, just a month before a decision is scheduled to be made by the PUC.

The Honorable Kurt Daudt

May 19, 2018

Page 2

This bill is a crass and foolhardy attempt by the Legislature to destroy the integrity and the intelligence of the existing, statutory decision-making process. It would set an extremely dangerous precedent that would severely undermine the PUC's authority in future cases.

I made clear months ago that I would veto this kind of ill-considered, politically-motivated pandering to the pipeline's proponents. I trust the bill's passage provides the re-election talking points desired by some of its proponents. Otherwise, it is a shameful abuse of responsible legislative authority.

For the reasons outlined above, I have vetoed this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Paul E. Gazelka, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator David J. Osmeck, Chief Senate Author
Representative Kurt Daudt, Speaker of the House
Representative Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader
Representative Dan Fabian, Chief House Author
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Paul Marinac, Revisor of Statutes