

# Ashland Daily Press

## DNR should deny Enbridge permits

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As a voting resident, I oppose the expansion of the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline in the Bad River watershed and requested that the Department of Natural Resources not grant Enbridge a permit. I am concerned about the effect construction and maintenance would have on our wetlands and waterways, and the disastrous impact a leak or spill would have on our water and the life it sustains.

Since becoming aware of the condition of the pipeline that crosses 12 miles of the Bad River Reservation, I have learned about the huge dangers pipelines pose. Enbridge has spilled hundreds of thousands of gallons of toxic petroleum products causing great damage. We do not want that to happen here! I oppose Enbridge Line 5 because our ecosystem

is endangered by its presence. The proposed reroute affects the Bad River, its tributaries and Lake Superior. The DNR has expertise confirming the harm pipeline construction around the reservation,

but within the watershed, poses to fragile wetlands that control floods and are essential to supporting the species that thrive in them. According to research on their website, "In Wisconsin, 32% of the state's listed species are wetland dependent. Further loss or degradation of wetlands would affect a disproportionate share of Wisconsin's rare species."

The same source indicates "our state has lost 47% of its original wetlands. Many of the remaining 5.3 million acres are in our northern third of the state." They include those that the new pipeline would affect. We must protect and restore what we have, not put more wetlands in peril. The same reasons for which the Bad River Tribe wants the pipeline off the reservation are those that justify the outpouring of opposition that was made evident during the public hearing on July 1

which I shared my objection to the new pipeline that would destroy those wetlands and endanger streams that contribute to our livelihood.

Although I do not fish, I am aware of the

wealth of our waters. I do enjoy harvesting wild rice, and have had the pleasure of canoeing the Kakagon Sloughs which are internationally acclaimed and produce some of the best rice in the region. Having hiked our fabulous Copper Falls State Park numerous times, I always marvel at the roaring water of the Bad River and Tyler Forks that ultimately feed those rice beds.

I am not a scientist, simply an educated citizen who fears the destruction caused by construction of a pipeline reroute, and the terrible consequences a spill will produce. I count on DNR experts to protect the natural resources on which our region depends. We need alternatives to fossil fuels, not to continue pumping substances that contribute to climatic catastrophes such as the floods we experienced in 2016 and 18. To protect our wetlands and rice

beds, I hope the DNR will deny Enbridge the right to destroy the precious balance we want to protect. And, dear reader, to ensure a healthy environment for all please vote in every election!