



RESOLUTION

Town of Hinesburg, Vermont

WHEARAS, the oil industry appears to be planning to use an aging oil pipeline, built in 1950, to bring Canadian tar sands diluted bitumen through Vermont on its way to Portland, Maine for export; and

WHEREAS, the mining, drilling, and processing of tar sands requires a vast and destructive industrial operation that emits 3-5 times more carbon pollution per barrel than conventional U.S. crude oil, among many other problems; and

WHEREAS, pipelines carrying tar sands have a greater likelihood of leaks and spills because of the corrosive properties of tar sands, and such spills are more costly and difficult to clean up than conventional oil spills, as demonstrated by a 2010 tar sands spill that contaminated the Kalamazoo River in Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Town expresses its opposition to the transport tar sands oil through Vermont, and its deep concern about the risks of such transport for public health and safety, property value, and our natural resources; and
2. That the Town may require every fuel vendor, as a precondition for doing business with the Town, to provide complete and current lists of the refinery sources of origin for all fuel the vendor sells, and thereby direct the Town's purchases as much as possible towards vendors whose refinery sources do not use materials derived from tar sands; and
3. That the Town encourage the State of Vermont and other northeast states to support policies phasing out fuel purchases as quickly as possible from vendors whose refinery sources of origin use any form of tar sands, and support policies such as a Clean Fuels Standard to help keep such fuels out of the region's fuel supply; and
4. That the Town call upon the Vermont State Legislature and the U.S. Congress to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of any tar sands related pipeline proposals, including the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills, along with clear guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of pipeline contents and feedstock; and
5. That the Town transmit a copy of this resolution to all relevant state, federal and Canadian officials, and the CEOs of Portland Pipe Line Corporation, Montreal Pipe Line Limited, Imperial Oil, ExxonMobil, and Enbridge, Inc.

Jonathan S. Trefry,
Chair

Michael Bissonette

Andrea Morgante

Tom Ayer

Phil Pouech

May 6, 2013