

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

December 4, 2015

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ENBRIDGE APPEAL DENIED ON 27-2 VOTE BY DANE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S Insurance requirement language will remain in Conditional Use Permit

Madison, WI- On December 3, the Dane County Board of Supervisors denied Enbridge Corporation's appeal of its permit to triple the capacity of Tar Sands Pipeline 61 by upgrading pumping capacity at its Town of Medina station. Canadian energy giant Enbridge was asking for removal of two permit conditions requiring environmental cleanup insurance.

The Board believed the conditions to be legal and enforceable when they were added to the permit in April. However, before the final issuance of the permit, the state legislature passed a budget provision making such conditions unenforceable. (Enbridge claims its four Madison lobbyists had no conversations with state lawmakers about the budget provision.)

Zoning Committee administrator Roger Lane subsequently removed the insurance requirements from the permit, believing this action to be purely administrative and within his authority. The Board, believing the change to be substantive and not within Lane's authority, restored the conditions, along with a footnote acknowledging that the conditions were no longer enforceable.

In its appeal, Enbridge counsel contended that restoring the conditions was unlawful and potentially harmful to the corporation's future interests. Members of the public, including many members of climate action group 350 Madison and landowners living adjacent to the pumping station, asked that the conditions be left in the permit as a record of the community's efforts to protect itself from a likely future oil spill.

The insurance conditions were "intended to prevent the need for a taxpayer bailout in the future when the inevitable oil spills from this disaster-prone company occur," said Peter Anderson, chair of 350 Madison's Risk Management Subcommittee. "350 Madison is proud that we have a county board in Dane County willing to stand up for what is right, even though the \$42-billion Canadian pipeline behemoth appears to be able to treat many Legislators as lapdogs ravenous for campaign contributions, and willing to throw under the bus their constituents who will later have to pay higher taxes to bail out this Canadian firm's next disaster here."

The board voted 27-2 to reject the appeal, retaining the insurance language in the Conditional Use Permit.

<http://350madison.org>

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The 350 Madison Climate Action Team is dedicated to achieving a just transition to a reduction in atmospheric CO2 below 350 parts per million (ppm) by working locally in concert with a powerful global movement.