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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Enbridge, a Canadian pipeline company, has pipelines running through Illinois carrying crude oil and tar sands oil; this poses a risk of leaks and spills to the towns and cities, the farms and waterways, and the wetlands of Illinois and to Illinois residents; and

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WHEREAS, Enbridge was responsible for the 2010 Kalamazoo Oil Spill in Michigan, the largest inland oil spill in the United States, and while it claims that it has fully cleaned up the spill, local residents say that the river is toxic and unsafe for fishing and for all the recreational uses that they enjoyed before the 2010 spill; and

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WHEREAS, Enbridge has a history of 800 other spills, including the 2010 spill in the Village of Romeoville, litigation about which is still ongoing; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois Commerce Commission has given Enbridge a certificate of "good standing" to expand and build additional sections of pipeline, using the rationale that the citizens of Illinois urgently need the oil that Enbridge is transporting; and

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WHEREAS, The notion that the citizens of Illinois urgently

1 need the oil that Enbridge is transporting is belied by the
2 fact that a large portion of that oil is being refined and
3 exported to other countries; and

4 WHEREAS, The decision that a constant supply of oil is a
5 "public good" is further belied by the looming threat of
6 climate change and the impending climate crisis; and

7 WHEREAS, The public good of the citizens of Illinois would
8 be better served by massive investments in renewable energy and
9 conservation; and

10 WHEREAS, The certificate of "good standing" gives Enbridge
11 the right to use Illinois courts to demand that landowners give
12 it easements to put new sections of pipeline across their lands
13 and to use eminent domain to force the landowners to comply on
14 terms largely favorable to Enbridge; and

15 WHEREAS, Enbridge is using that power of eminent domain in
16 a bullying fashion, forcing landowners who do not want that
17 pipeline to accept the pipeline and Enbridge's terms for it;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 urge Enbridge and any other pipeline company transporting

1 fossil fuels to have an environmental impact study conducted by
2 a third-party scientific organization with no ties to the
3 industry before they lay any new section of pipe and before any
4 section of existing pipe begins to transport tar sands oil or
5 natural gas extracted by fracking; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That any environmental impact study must include
7 the long-term impact of burning fossil fuels on the looming
8 climate crisis; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That Enbridge and any other pipeline company must
10 be held fully responsible for any environmental damages caused
11 by leaks or spills or for agricultural damage to the farms
12 through which their pipelines pass.