**No Line 9 Reversal!**

A Statement Against Tar Sands Expansion and Shipment

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We, the undersigned organizations and grassroots groups, are opposed to the Line 9 reversal project and we stand in solidarity with indigenous communities and environmental activists who have spoken out against similar pipeline projects.

**1. The Line 9 Reversal Project is highly problematic:**

* If approved, Enbridge will be able to ship ‘heavy crude’ through the pipeline—from Sarnia to Montreal. This means tar sands bitumen will be running throughout southern and eastern Ontario.
* In order to make it flow, the bitumen would need to be diluted with toxic chemicals like naphtha and benzene, and pumped through the pipeline at a high temperature. Line 9 was built in 1976 to ship light crude, not this ‘liquid sandpaper.’
* Both old and new pipelines have been shown to burst in recent years. The threat to the health of communities and the watersheds throughout Ontario is enormous.
* If Line 9 facilitates the export of diluted bitumen (‘dilbit’) to foreign markets, this will only encourage tar sands expansion in Alberta and western Saskatchewan. This means more local pollution in those provinces—including among indigenous communities who have already seen their land, water and air poisoned—and also increased greenhouse gas emissions.

**2. There is an alternative…**

* Government investment in conservation efforts and renewable energy initiatives could help us shake off our dependence on dirty fossil fuels such as those being pumped out of the tar sands.
* We need to see a ‘just transition’ for the workers whose employment is tied to these industries. Many more jobs and long-term economic benefits could be generated by focusing on renewable energy and conservation.
* We need to consider other ways to measure the well-being of society beyond GDP. Supporting tar sands projects simply because they generate economic growth is shortsighted and ignores the social and environmental realities we are facing. Traditional Indigenous knowledge shows us that we can lead a more harmonious and sustainable lifestyle that takes into account the needs of future generations.

**3. We therefore present the following proposals:**

* Do not approve any pipeline projects that would transport unrefined tar sands bitumen over long distances.
* Only support the shipment of *refined* bitumen in the context of
1. The refining taking place close to the source of extraction
2. The end product being intended for consumption within Canada, and
3. A broader strategy that includes a move towards renewable energy sources and a just transition for the workers employed in tar sands-related industries.
* Cancel all fossil fuel industry subsidies, grants and tax credits.
* Restore the environmental assessment processes that the federal Conservative government has gutted in recent years, and remove barriers that prevent community members from participating in environmental decision-making.
* Compensate the indigenous and other communities who have seen their surroundings poisoned by tar sands extraction and pipeline spills.

The local environmental and global climate crises cannot be ignored. We will continue to build a movement that works towards a truly sustainable and fair Canada. This will take into consideration the needs of future generations and the diverse communities at home and abroad. In this context, our immediate call is for “NO LINE 9 REVERSAL!”

Signatories: