

Rep. Lucido offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 254.

A resolution to urge the U.S. State Department to deny the Plains LPG presidential permit application for the pipelines under the St. Clair River.

Whereas, Plains LPG Services purchased seven pipelines located beneath the St. Clair River and Detroit River in 2012 and requested that the U.S. State Department approve presidential permits to connect, operate, and maintain pipeline facilities at the international boundary between the United States and Canada; and

Whereas, The State Department issued one permit for the pipeline located under the Detroit River and one permit for the six pipelines under the St. Clair River in 2014. When Plains LPG discovered that the former owner had a previously unknown permit to transport crude oil through two of the pipelines, the State Department rescinded the permit for the pipelines under the St. Clair River and restarted the review process; and

Whereas, The original public comment period for the revised St. Clair River pipeline permit closed on February 24, 2016, but was re-opened on March 15, 2016, when many people informed the State Department that they had concerns about the proposed permit and had only become aware of the application after the comment period closed; and

Whereas, An oil spill in the Great Lakes would have catastrophic consequences for the environment and economy of Michigan, surrounding states, and Canada. A spill would be particularly devastating due to the challenges of responding to an oil spill in fresh water or under ice; and

Whereas, The 2015 Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force (MPPTF) recommended against the transportation of heavy crude oil through pipelines under the Great Lakes and issued a series of proposals for how the state could improve its oversight of pipelines generally, including recommendations to develop better information, response plans, public awareness, and agency coordination. The MPPTF Report was prepared in response to the Enbridge Line 6B rupture in 2010 and renewed attention to the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline running near the Straits of Mackinac; and

Whereas, The Plains LPG pipelines under the St. Clair River could potentially be even more dangerous than Enbridge Lines 5 and 6B. Two of the six lines under the St. Clair River are nearly 100 years old, and the permit, if approved, would allow for the transportation of crude oil; and

Whereas, Not only could the rupture of these pipelines lead to disastrous consequences for agriculture, fishing, irrigation, electric generation, manufacturing, and wildlife, but the location of the Plains LPG pipelines poses a serious threat to the region's drinking water. The main drinking water intakes for Detroit and many other communities are located downstream of the pipelines, putting the public health of millions at risk; and

Whereas, A pipeline owned by Plains LPG's parent company ruptured due to corrosion and discharged more than 100,000 gallons of crude oil in Santa Barbara, California, in May 2015. The company was unaware of the rupture for more than two hours which delayed coordinated efforts to limit the spill's impact on the area; and

Whereas, The State Department should not approve any permits that would allow for the transportation of crude oil through the Great Lakes, particularly if the company requesting the permit has a history of failing to properly respond to oil spills; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the U.S. State Department to deny the Plains LPG presidential permit application for the pipelines under the St. Clair River; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of State and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.