



Resolution Opposing the NEXUS Gas Transmission Project

Passed by the Washtenaw County Democratic Party General Membership on April 1, 2017

WHEREAS, the NEXUS Gas Transmission (NGT) project, a partnership of DTE Energy, Enbridge Inc. and Spectra Energy, is designed to transport increasing supplies of natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica shale fields to receiving points in Ohio, Michigan, Chicago and Dawn, Ontario Canada; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will consist of newly constructed, large diameter (36") greenfield pipeline that is projected to carry 1.5 billion cubic feet of gas per day under high pressure; and

WHEREAS, out of more than 250 miles of new pipe construction, approximately 57 miles will be in Michigan, cutting across Lenawee and Monroe Counties, then entering Washtenaw County and slicing through the Townships of York, Augusta and Ypsilanti to connect at the Willow Station located at Willow Run; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the abandonment/sale of Energy Transfer's natural gas Trunkline in November 2013 based on the claim that there already existed excess natural gas pipelines capacity in the Midwest, including Michigan; and

WHEREAS, in many parts of Michigan and Washtenaw County, home and property values have only recently begun to rebound from the previous market crash, and that 4 pipeline corridors for diverse commodities already cross the County; adding an additional pipeline would contribute to both a decline in property values, and a decline in tax revenues based on those values, in impacted areas; and

WHEREAS, the proposed path for the new pipeline in Washtenaw County passes through residential areas and wildlife habitats as well as ecologically sensitive areas including wetlands, creeks, streams and floodplains, meaning the pipeline's construction would destroy natural beauty and negatively impact these areas' ecosystems and, in the event of an accident, endanger farmland and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the extensive damage that can be caused by a simple leak from a high pressure pipeline is illustrated by the large crater caused by the May, 2015 leak in Lyndon Township, Washtenaw County—even though no spark or flame made contact with the escaping gas, and the damage was only from a leak; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new NEXUS pipeline will also traverse the pending American Center for Mobility, which represents both a major investment by, and a major economic growth opportunity for, not only the State of Michigan and Washtenaw County, but also for the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, 18.6 miles of the NEXUS pipeline would run through Washtenaw County, and would pass within 400 to 1000 feet of 3 elementary school buildings on Lincoln Consolidated School's campus; and

WHEREAS, several Michigan municipalities have passed resolutions opposing the construction of the NEXUS Gas Transmission Project, including the Ypsilanti Charter Township Board of Trustees, the Augusta Charter Township Board of Trustees, and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Democratic Party opposes the construction of the NEXUS Gas Transmission project.