


CBTU SMCC

CANADA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS
LES SYNDICATS DES MÉTIERS DE LA CONSTRUCTION DU CANADA
Value on Display. Every Day. Valeur sûre à tous les jours.

March 16, 2017

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Mayor Eisenberger,

I am writing to you to express Canada's Building Trades Unions's support of Enbridge's Line 10 Westover Segment Replacement Project.

Canada's Building Trades Unions represents over 500,000 working tradesmen and women from coast to coast. Our members of the fifteen affiliated national unions believe that this pipeline replacement project is an important and logical step to ensuring the safe and reliable operation of Canada's vital energy transportation infrastructure. We agree that by replacing this segment of Line 10 rather than applying several preventative maintenance digs, Enbridge will minimize overall disturbance to landowners along the right-of-way and, in the long term, have less impact on the environment. Renewal of a pipeline system is in the interests of safety for all concerned, to use an everyday analogy, it is like replacing the pads or discs on the brakes of your car before they completely wear out.

When asked at Open Houses and through the NEB decision making process about decommissioning, Enbridge's response was that by leaving the decommissioned pipeline in place, they will avoid the added disturbance and significant construction activities that excavation and removal would bring. Leaving the line in the ground also reduces the risk of soil and slope instability, settlement and compaction issues that could compromise the safety of active pipelines sharing that right-of-way. Enbridge has publicly stated that they will be responsible for the decommissioned pipeline forever. They have stated that neither landowners nor the City would bear any financial costs associated with the decommissioned pipe segments. The National Energy Board agreed with this position and so do our construction professionals.

Ensuring that Great Lakes region refineries have reliable access to lower-priced crude oil from Western Canadian sources protects the long-term viability of not just these refining industries but the numerous direct and indirect jobs those industries support, including so many in Hamilton where energy is consumed by many of our largest employers and employees on a daily basis. Enbridge has demonstrated to us and to our members and to the National Energy Board, they have a plan in place that will proactively address pipeline maintenance; enhance reliability and the safety of the pipeline; ensure there are multiple opportunities for the participation of indigenous and local businesses; and meeting local, landowner and municipal issues.

The petrochemical value chain derived from crude oil results in important spinoff manufacturing, including automotive parts, rubber-based products, extruded plastics, secondary and specialty chemicals, insulation and synthetics. This sector also supports Ontario's burgeoning green energy sector by supporting the manufacturing of photovoltaic and thermal solar products and bioproducts. The petrochemical industry also supports unlikely sectors such as environmental firms, emergency response services, engineering and design firms and also archeological and other heritage businesses. Many other area businesses, such as hotels, grocery stores and restaurants, will also benefit from the presence of work crews during project construction. This will provide much needed stimulus for our local hospitality industry. Through "reverse trade shows" and direct contact with Enbridge procurement, we know Enbridge has created a repository whereby Hamilton and region supplier businesses can submit information and compete for work contracts with Enbridge. Enbridge staff have helped local businesses navigate the process for obtaining the required safety accreditations and documentation to improve their viability for project work. Community benefits such as these provide local procurement opportunities, earns community support for development projects, diffuses opposition, and builds trust, skill and resolve needed to tackle other complex issues. The line itself will have young men and women new to the construction business commence apprenticeships leading to life long careers in an industry that continues to grow and deliver value to our fellow citizens.

Maintaining the long-term viability of the refining industry in the Great Lakes region helps ensure that it – and the numerous businesses it supports – can continue to generate many well-paying, high-tech jobs, many of them in organized labour environments, along the petrochemical value chain. Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU), through Build Together, a workforce development program is focused on the recruitment and retention of workers from underrepresented portions of the population- Women, Indigenous Peoples, New Canadians and Youth. Enbridge is trying to maximize local Indigenous participation in the Line 10 Project and in their ongoing operational service requirements to provide opportunities and receive the benefits of the knowledge and experience these communities can provide. We will support those efforts.

Maintaining this line will also contribute to tax revenues at all levels of government. The replacement of this segment of Line 10 will help these industries remain profitable and ensure the continuing flow of benefits to Ontario's economy, the City of Hamilton and thousands of hard working Hamiltonians, including the many tradesmen and women we represent.

On behalf of our fifteen affiliated unions and its members, I urge you and your colleagues on City Council to support this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Blakely', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert R. Blakely,
Chief Operating Officers



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