ENBRIDGE LINE 5 PIPELINE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties (League) supports measures to prevent water pollution, including measures to protect lakes, streams, and wetlands, and protection of current and potential drinking water sources;

AND WHEREAS the League recognizes the Sovereignty of Native Americans, including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and respects treaty rights in regard to water resources, as well as their positions and decisions with respect thereto;

AND WHEREAS the League supports the efforts of Towns and Counties to protect their citizens from the adverse impacts of environmentally destructive activities;

AND WHEREAS the League understands the need for and supports a timely and rapid transition to renewable energy;

AND WHEREAS the League supports the preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment, and further supports the stewardship of land as a finite resource, particularly fragile lands and waters, such as the Bad River Watershed, Lake Superior, and the Straits of Mackinac, where leaks and spills from oil pipelines could result in irreversible damage;

AND WHEREAS Enbridge Energy has proposed the continuance, replacement, and/or relocation of a pipeline to carry oil through northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan;

AND WHEREAS Wisconsin as a whole derives minimal benefit and has no utilization of product of Enbridge Line 5, but assumes great risks associated therewith;

AND WHEREAS the League acknowledges the Bad River watershed's unique, remote, and challenging terrain that, when combined with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, has proven hazardous to pipeline integrity;

AND WHEREAS Enbridge pipelines have, in the past, and continue to, experience numerous leaks and spills, which have resulted in the discharge of massive quantities of oil and other pollutants;

AND WHEREAS Enbridge is not required to publicly disclose what hazardous materials are transported by Line 5, contrary to the public's right to know, leaving the public inadequately informed about health and environmental risks;

AND WHEREAS the League fears that Enbridge may have inadequate emergency response plans and we fear Enbridge may provide insufficient funds for any future spill response and clean-up, should they become necessary, and any spill would therefore be environmentally, culturally and economically catastrophic;

AND WHEREAS the League is a member of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region, and Enbridge Line 5 proceeds to route through the Straits of Mackinac where it puts both Lakes Huron and Michigan at risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, the League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties, Wisconsin, passes this resolution to express their OPPOSITION to Enbridge Line 5 and their SUPPORT for the efforts of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians and others, including private landowners along the (current and proposed) Enbridge Line 5 corridor, to halt any expansion or relocation of the line and rather to see it removed from the Bad River watershed and decommissioned entirely.

Dated this 26th day of November, 2019.

Anne Chartier, President

League of Women Voters of Ashland and Bayfield Counties