

RICHARD M. NOLAN
8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA



COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

AVIATION
HIGHWAYS & TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDING AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CONSERVATION, ENERGY, AND FORESTRY
LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CREDIT

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2447 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6211

NOLAN.HOUSE.GOV
FACEBOOK.COM/USREP/RICKNOLAN
TWITTER.COM/USREP/RICKNOLAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

July 22, 2014

Mr. Larry B. Hartman
Environmental Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Dear Mr. Hartman:

As you evaluate the application for Enbridge's Sandpiper project, please take into account my ongoing concerns and those of my constituents regarding the proposed route of the pipeline. While construction of the new project could benefit the region, there are preferable alternative routes that would pass only through heavy soil areas and would avoid environmentally sensitive land and water.

The sandy, porous soils along the proposed route are particularly vulnerable to pollution in the event of a pipeline spill, which could significantly jeopardize the quality of our lakes, drinking water, and agricultural irrigation. Additionally, in a region as dependent on outdoor recreation and tourism as northern Minnesota is, even the possibility of a spill could have lasting economic consequences.

Local stakeholders are also concerned that the proposed route would cross at least twenty-eight rivers, lakes, and wetlands that cannot be accessed from existing roads. It is difficult to imagine how a cleanup operation could quickly respond to a leak or spill in such remote and fragile areas without causing serious destruction to the surrounding environment. In its public comments, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency raised several serious questions about the proposed route. Ultimately, the agency concluded that "the environmental damage that would occur as a result of a leak in this location could be massive."

In addition, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources expressed similar concerns, noting that a spill would travel quickly downstream and could potentially affect walleye spawning areas and wild rice beds. Our way of life is tied to water in Minnesota, and it is imperative that we not put our environment, economy, and residents at risk, especially when there are viable alternatives available.

To be clear, I believe pipelines play an important role in reducing carbon emissions, providing a safer economical transportation alternative, and facilitating domestic energy production. Furthermore, Enbridge has shown willingness to adopt additional safety features, such as shut-off valves at waterways.

DULUTH OFFICE
11 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, SUITE 125
DULUTH, MN 55802
PHONE: (218) 464-5095

BRAINERD OFFICE
501 LAUREL STREET
BRAINERD, MN 56401
PHONE: (218) 454-4078

CENTER CITY OFFICE
313 N MAIN ST, ROOM 174
CENTER CITY MN 55012
PHONE: (218) 491-3131

CHISHOLM OFFICE
316 WEST LAKE STREET #7
CHISHOLM, MN 55719
PHONE: (218) 491-3114

It is evident that Enbridge has learned important lessons from the 2010 spill in Michigan. However, it is critical that we do all we can to prevent any similar incident from occurring in the unique and pristine landscape of Minnesota.

Your consideration of my concerns and those of other stakeholders is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to reach out if my office can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard M. Nolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress