

TOWN OF BRIDGTON

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF LOCAL CITIZENS, WATER BODIES AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES IN RELATION TO THE POSSIBLE TRANSPORT OF TAR SANDS OIL THROUGH MAINE

WHEREAS, Bridgton benefits immensely from the pristine lakes, streams, and ponds that define our region, which have for generations provided recreation for residents and tourists alike and which enhance property values and generate substantial economic activity that sustains jobs; and

WHEREAS, the oil industry appears to plan to use an aging oil pipeline, built in the 1950s, to bring Canadian tar sands diluted bitumen through the Lakes Region to Casco Bay for export, even though the pipeline passes next to Sebago Lake and numerous other lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams in the Lakes Region and crosses the Crooked and Androscoggin Rivers in numerous places; and

WHEREAS, tar sands are heavier than conventional oil and spills are more dangerous and difficult to clean up; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 a pipeline spilled more than a million gallons of diluted tar sands down a 30-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, creating a public safety, health, and environmental disaster with continuing, long-lasting impacts; and

WHEREAS, the transport of tar sands oil to and through Oxford and Cumberland counties may create unreasonable risks to the health, safety, natural resources, property and economic welfare of persons living in Bridgton and neighboring communities; and

WHEREAS, the transport of tar sands oil to and through Oxford and Cumberland counties would not create or sustain any new jobs in our region since the infrastructure that would be used already exists;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that through the adoption of this resolution, the Town of Bridgton expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Maine and its deep concern about the risks that such transport creates in relation to public health and safety, property values, and the clean natural resources upon which the local communities depend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Bridgton calls upon the Maine State Legislature and the United States Congress to ensure there will be thorough environmental impact reviews of tar sands diluted bitumen pipeline proposals, including a complete evaluation of the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Bridgton supports the creation of clear Federal and State guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of various types of fuel so that local governments, citizens, and first responders can better know of, and plan for, the risks associated with the specific type of fuel flowing through or to their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Bridgton transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of Energy, U.S. Secretary of Interior, Chair of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Maine Congressional delegation, the Governor of Maine and the local representatives to the Maine State Legislature.

PASSED by the Bridgton Town Meeting this 11th day of June, 2013.

Town Clerk, Town of BRIDGTON _____