President Biden and Army Corps Acting Assistant Secretary Jaime Pinkham,

We are writing to express our outrage that the Army Corps of Engineers failed to conduct a full environmental review of the Line 3 tar sands pipeline before oil flows through the pipeline. We are writing today to request that you urgently intervene to halt the imminent operation of the pipeline until a full environmental review is conducted, including full consultation with tribal nations and a federal Environmental Impact Statement.

You have declared a code red climate emergency, stating that “the nation and the world are in peril.” We agree. It is past time to act in accordance with your declaration- you must act now and stop the Line 3 pipeline, or risk irreversible damage to our land, water, and climate.

If the Line 3 pipeline is not stopped, it will carry highly carbon-intensive tar sands oil, which will result in the pipeline carrying the carbon equivalent of 50 new coal plants in the midst of an escalating climate emergency. Additionally, the line crosses more than 22 water bodies and primary rivers – including the Mississippi River twice – and more than 200 wetlands, and desecrates some of the most pristine ecosystems and watersheds on both Native and non-Native lands and waters in the state.

In its November 2020 decision to issue the Clean Water Act 404 permit for the pipeline, the Trump Administration’s Army Corps of Engineers failed to consider significant information on the Line 3 tar sands pipeline’s impacts, including the risk of oil spills, climate change impacts, and impacts on Indigenous peoples whose rights are enshrined by Treaty with the U.S. government. Despite evidence that the project would have significant impacts, the Corps did not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Line 3.

The need for a robust federal Environmental Impact Statement for Line 3 has become even more urgent in recent weeks. Just as construction neared completion, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ordered Enbridge to pay $3.32 million for puncturing an aquifer and referred the matter for criminal prosecution. The ongoing damage from this spill comes on top of other unresolved concerns about the construction process including more than 28 “frac out” spills of drilling fluid, and Enbridge’s admission that it will not abide by agreed by conditions to obtain liability insurance or establish an escrow fund to mitigate damages from future spills. None of this gives the public any confidence that the hastily constructed pipeline can operate safely.

Tribal governments, state legislators and members of Congress, prominent activists and celebrities, and hundreds of community, environmental and racial justice organizations have all called for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete a full environmental impact statement before the pipeline is allowed to operate. Even if the oil begins to flow, your administration can limit the damage by halting the operation of the pipeline until a full environmental review is conducted, including full consultation with tribal nations and a federal environmental impact statement. Failure to act in this critical moment sends a clear signal— the Biden Administration

¹ For more appeals from Tribal Governments visit link and link.
is willing to stand by while a Canadian oil company pursues a reckless and dangerous agenda that tramples tribal rights, risks American drinking water, and makes it virtually impossible to meet the emissions reduction demands of our current Paris Agreement greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Stopping or halting Line 3 is well within the authority of the Biden Administration. Do not let this Trump Pipeline become a Biden Pipeline.

We urge you to take urgent action to halt the operation of Line 3.

Thank you,

350.org
Bold Alliance
CAIR-Minnesota
Center for Biological Diversity
Earth Guardians
Earthjustice
EarthRights International
Environmental Action Coalition
First Universalist Church of Minneapolis
Food & Water Watch
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Hip Hop Caucus
Honor The Earth
Indigenous Environmental Network
Indivisible
Land Stewardship Project
Minnesota Indivisible Alliance
Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
MN350
MoveOn Civic Action
Natural Resources Defense Council
Presente.org
Rainforest Action Network
Seventh Generation
Sierra Club
Sunrise Movement
TakeAction Minnesota
Women’s Earth and Climate Action Network

cc:
Gina McCarthy
Ron Klain
Ali Zaidi
Deb Haaland
Michael Regan
Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith
Governor Walz

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