

**Resolution Opposing the Rover Gas Transmission Pipeline Project,
Opposing the Pipeline Route in Parts of Dexter Township, and Urging Use of Odorization**

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 28, 2017**

WHEREAS, the Rover Pipeline, a project of Energy Transfer Partners (65%) and Traverse Midstream Partners (35%), is designed to transport domestically produced natural gas through West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan into the Dawn Hub in Ontario Canada; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will consist of newly constructed, large diameter (42”) pipeline that is projected to carry 3.25 billion cubic feet per day of fracked natural gas from the Utica and Marcellus shale formations under high pressure; and

WHEREAS, out of 710 miles of new pipeline construction, approximately 72 miles will be in Michigan, cutting across the Counties of Lenawee (29.07 miles), Livingston (15.32 miles) and Washtenaw (28.27 miles); and within Washtenaw County, the pipeline will traverse the Townships of Manchester, Bridgewater, Freedom, Lima and Dexter before entering Livingston County and Putnam Township, ultimately running to an interconnection with the Vector Pipeline in Howell, MI; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the abandonment/sale of Energy Transfer’s natural gas Trunkline in November 2013 based on the claim that there already existed excess natural gas pipelines capacity in the Midwest, including Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed path for the new pipeline in Washtenaw County passes through residential areas and wildlife habitats as well as ecologically sensitive areas including wetlands, creeks, streams and floodplains, meaning the pipeline’s construction would destroy natural beauty and negatively impact these areas’ ecosystems and, in the event of an accident, endanger farmland and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the total annual greenhouse gas emissions caused by the Rover Pipeline would be 145 million metric tons, with an emissions equivalent of 42 coal plants (or over 30 million passenger vehicles) as determined by Oil Change International’s Gas Pipeline Climate Methodology, and the pipeline’s construction would generate 369,790 tons of greenhouse gas emissions in the year of construction; and

WHEREAS, resolutions opposing construction of the Rover pipeline have been passed by the Township of Freedom, the Township of Lima, the Township of Dexter, the Village of Pinckney (in Livingston County) and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the extensive damage that can be caused by construction of a natural gas pipeline is illustrated by the 18 pipeline-related spills and other environmental violations that have occurred during Energy Transfer’s construction of the Rover pipeline in Ohio—including the April 13th, 2017 release of more than 5 million gallons of drilling fluid contaminated by diesel fuel into a wetland—resulting in nearly \$1,000,000 in fines by the Ohio EPA against Energy Transfer, and is further illustrated by the damage from a simple leak from a high pressure pipeline in May, 2015, which resulted in a large crater in Lyndon Township, Washtenaw County, even though no spark or flame made contact with the escaping gas, and the damage was only from a leak; and

WHEREAS, the Rover pipeline project will perform Horizontal Directional Drilling under the Portage River in an area where an “inadvertent return” of bentonite drilling fluid or other spill could potentially and substantively threaten the Huron River Watershed and thus the drinking water supplies of numerous communities downstream, including the Cities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti; and

WHEREAS, the Rover pipeline project cuts off the Silver Lake community in Dexter Township from any means of evacuation in a pipeline emergency, including 90+ residences (up to 400 persons by season), YMCA Camp Birkett (100+ children and 20+ counselors per day for 10+ weeks per year seasonally), the Post 46 Hunt and Fish Club (100+ member families), the Pinckney Recreation Area Silver Lake Beach (500+ parking spaces), and the Crooked Lake State Campground (25 rustic campsites), potentially entrapping 2000 or more people and preventing them from escaping a catastrophe or receiving incoming emergency help; and

WHEREAS, there was no opportunity for public review, comment and assessment of the disadvantages cited in the FERC Order Issuing Certificate with regard to the alternate route in Dexter Township, along the ITC easement--a route which does not involve entrapping the communities and locations referenced in the previous paragraph--and the cited disadvantages were only revealed as deciding factors in the FERC Order Issuing Certificate; and

WHEREAS, odorization of natural gas is required by the Pipeline Safety Regulations of the Department of Transportation in 49 CFR 192.625 to provide safety and warning to the public, and is a standard measure to protect public safety, health and welfare by allowing detection of potential leaks by passers-by; and

WHEREAS, the requirement for odorization is a critical federal requirement for mitigating the known danger to public safety, health and welfare of such a facility not only to the citizens of the State of Michigan and Washtenaw County, but also to children playing in the vicinity of the pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Rover pipeline project route near Silver Lake passes sufficiently close to the YMCA Camp Birkett in Dexter Township that the potential impact radius would extend 834.9 feet into the YMCA camp and under Section §192.903 of the Department of Transportation's Pipeline Safety Regulations, the camp is also designated a high consequence area, meaning that it is an area where a pipeline accident could have the most significant adverse consequences, a circumstance which is not necessary in light of the existence of the superior alternative route mentioned previously;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners opposes the construction of the Rover natural gas pipeline project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the current route marked out and surveyed for the pipeline near Silver Lake in Dexter Township and urges use of the alternate route along the ITC easement in order to substantially reduce the risk of entrapment of 2000 people or more in the event of a pipeline accident; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners strongly urges that the Rover pipeline gas be odorized before it reaches the Silver Lake region in Dexter Township to allow warning of impending disaster due to leakage; and that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the construction of large diameter pipelines constructed to transport natural gas in proximity to high consequence areas such as the YMCA Camp Birkett at Silver Lake in Dexter Township without a requirement that the gas carry odorant to allow warning of impending disaster due to leakage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners urges the Army Corps of Engineers to revoke ET Rover's authorization (under Nationwide Permit 12) to construct the pipeline and instead require individual permits for each water body crossing for the length of the pipeline on the basis that construction will have greater than minimum individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to send copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, Michigan's members of Congress, Governor Rick Snyder, Washtenaw County's state legislative delegation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the State of

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the State of Michigan Emergency Operations Center, and the Washtenaw County Emergency Services Division.

COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A	COMMISSIONER	Y	N	A
Brabec	X			LaBarre	X			Smith	X		
Deatrick	X			Martinez-Kratz			X				
Jamnick	X			Morgan	X						
Jefferson	X			Ping			X				

CLERK/REGISTER'S CERTIFICATE - CERTIFIED COPY ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 0 2

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

I, Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register of said County of Washtenaw and Clerk of Circuit Court for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners at a session held at the County Administration Building in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on June 28th, 2017, as it appears of record in my office.

COUNTY OF WASHTENAW)^{SS}.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court at Ann Arbor, this 29th day of June, 2017.

LAWRENCE KESTENBAUM, Clerk/Register

BY: _____ Deputy Clerk



Res. No. 17-101