



HUBBARD COUNTY COLA
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Dear HCCOLA Presidents and Representatives

Once again, we find our beloved waters threatened by outside invaders. A new type of invasive is threatening. Enbridge, a Canadian conglomerate and its North Dakota Pipeline Company, LLC ("Enbridge") have set their preferred route for the Sandpiper pipeline through our clearest lakes country, pristine wetlands, and finest wild rice areas. See the MN resource maps with the route [Sandpiper alternate route map](#)

Enbridge's proposed Sandpiper route goes under many streams and rivers including the Mississippi River twice. The Mississippi provides drinking water for St. Cloud, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and other communities. The elbow of the route is our Park Rapids area where groundwater is most susceptible to contamination, as are other areas, as the pipeline heads east on its way to Lake Superior. This pipeline terminates at the largest of the Great Lakes of North America and the world's third-largest freshwater lake by volume. Our Minnesota waters and wetlands are very susceptible to degradation by pollutants such as oil!

Enbridge wants to push the Sandpiper "preferred route" through the MN Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") permitting process. Enbridge does not want to consider other more environmentally friendly routes proposed to the PUC by Minnesota stakeholders.

Fortunately we have a strong, vocal, well-organized local-based group, Friends of the Headwaters (FOH). HCCOLA fully supports the Friends of the Headwaters ("FOH") in its efforts to relocate the Enbridge Route to an alternate route away from the lake country's natural resources. Learn what is at risk for our HCCOLA area [County Impacts Page](#). FOH, along with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Department of Natural Resources, have been successful in getting the PUC to consider alternative system routes. This was unprecedented in MN pipeline history.

FOH has now partnered with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy ("MCEA") and will be represented by the MCEA legal team. FOH actions to reroute the pipeline need essential funding at this time in order to protect our waters of Minnesota. FOH needs your help!

Together we, as a Coalition of Lake Associations, are the Leaders in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers. To support HCCOLA's mission, the HCCOLA Board has voted to make a donation to FOH of \$2000 from the special project funds and fund raising activities set up to protect our waters. We are not using your membership dollars for this donation.

HCCOLA is not against necessary pipelines but believes there is a better route for all Minnesotans away from our sensitive waters.

HCCOLA's Leadership Team has made personal commitments to the FOH Sandpiper Reroute in both time and money. We encourage you as individuals and as lake associations to join us in supporting FOH to protect our waters. Read more about the Sandpiper and Line 3 Replacement through our HCCOLA lakes area, see the maps and facts [Sandpiper Pipeline Page](#).

Your donation will be for the benefit of Friends of the Headwaters ("FOH"). FOH is educating the public and advocating for the relocation of the Sandpiper Pipeline Route to protect our waters and the environment of Hubbard County and Minnesota lake country. These donations are used to help cover FOH expenses such as educational materials, postage, FOH legal costs and expert witness testimony. Please make your check payable to HCCOLA and note on the memo line: "FOH" and the name of your lake. Mail to: HCCOLA, PO Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470 - or - [Donate Online](#) on the HCCOLA website: [Donate Now Page](#). HCCOLA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization and your donation will be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Lastly the PUC will be conducting public hearings in 5 locations from January 5–9, 2015 for public comments on Enbridge's request for a Certificate of Need for its proposed Sandpiper Pipeline and it is accepting public written comments from 12/8/14 to 1/23/2015 at 4:30 P.M. Topics for public oral or written comment include:

- Is the proposed project needed and in the public interest?
- What are the costs and benefits of the proposed project?
- What are the environmental and human impacts of the proposed project and how can these impacts be addressed?
- Do any of the factors listed in Minnesota Rule 7853.0130 have particular importance in this case? [MN Rules Page](#)
- Are there other project-related issues or concerns?

Read how to participate in the public hearings or to comment Online or by U.S. Mail to the PUC: [PUC Instructions](#)

We cannot afford to stand on the sidelines! There is too much at stake!

Sincerely,

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Supporting information available for review and download at the HCCOLA website:

[Downloadable Files](#)

Example of available documents:

Maps showing proposed route and alternatives, sensitive waters and wetlands, wild rice areas, aquifers, domestic and commercial drinking water wells.

Article by Nate Bowe of the Detroit Lakes Newspapers, reprinted in Wed 10/8/14 Park Rapids Enterprise and used here with Nate Bowe's permission – *"Former officials blast Sandpiper as worst possible route"* - explains the aquifer and groundwater danger of contamination for the city water supply of Park Rapids, local industries, irrigated agricultural crops, the Straight River trout stream, and potentially lakes like Long and Hines.