



## **Sec. Clinton Warned by Minnesotans: Enbridge Dirty Oil Project Should Not Be Approved**

### **Lawsuits, Pending Eminent Domain Issues, Referendum, Eagle Habitat, Sovereignty Issues Spell Trouble for Enbridge Pipeline**

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**Minnesota August 6** – Today, Leech Lake Tribal Members and the Indigenous Environmental Network began outreach to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton asking her to deny the permit for the Alberta Clipper pipeline, slated to bring vast amounts of Canada's oil sands into the US. They also are conducting outreach to other D.C. based politicians and policy makers.

"We want to make sure she has a clear picture about the extraordinary problems that are associated with this pipeline ranging from tribal sovereignty issues --- to oil spill concerns -- to putting America's second largest bald eagle population at risk; not to mention that it is absolutely the wrong direction to build a clean energy economy and a responsible climate future," says Marty Cobenais of Indigenous Environmental Network.

The groups concerns outlined in the letter (below) include an upcoming referendum vote to void Leech Lake tribal agreement with Enbridge; a lawsuit and request for an injunction against Enbridge; habitat for a major Bald Eagle nesting area is at risk with recent oil spills on record; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has stepped into the process because land owner allotment agreements have not yet been approved.

Bill Schroeder, a non-tribal member also represents a growing number of concerned landowners saying, "I don't want Enbridge to take over my property, but they just keep saying 'Eminent Domain'. I guess what that means is big oil can just take my land away, and I can't do anything about it."

The group also is concerned that this pipeline is part of a larger project that [threatens the Great Lakes, and would crisscross the Northern Plains and Native American reservations](#). Proposed pipelines would run through the Dakotas, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin. Farmers, ranchers, tribes and Midwestern landowners have all opposed the pipelines, citing risks of oil spills and water and air pollution and will lock the US into a dirty energy future, just as the country is moving to the new energy economy.

A decision was expected by the State Department in early July, 2009 but the permit has not yet been approved. Last week Minnesota Leech Lake tribal members held a rally and marched down a Minnesota highway near the Leech Lake. Non-tribal members joined hundreds of native Americans who attended.

In the coming weeks tribal members plan to request in-person meetings in Washington DC to discuss their concerns with those copied on the letter.

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