



Presentation to the Ontario Energy Board Energy East Consultation

March 26, 2014

Executive Summary

Presenters: Tom Cook, Chair, Thunder Bay Chapter
Council of Canadians
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We are here today representing the local chapter of the Council of Canadians. The Council of Canadians has a long-standing tradition of working for social justice issues, many of which are reflected in the Energy East discussion. Our local chapter represents well over 100 local and regional supporters and our comments today reflect the beliefs of those supporters as well as a number of other groups with which we have been working in the area.

We wish to thank the Province of Ontario for holding hearings through the offices of the Ontario Energy Board to clarify the wishes of the people of Ontario with regard to this pipeline proposal.

Our presentation has five major headings, with minimal discussion under each heading. The issue is far too complex to allow for a complete discussion of the particulars in a short presentation. We will be submitting a more complete document in written form after

this hearing.

The areas we wish to comment on today are:

1. Economic Impacts of the Energy East Proposal:

We will discuss, in brief, the suggestions put forward by TransCanada, that there will be local job creation from the conversion of this pipeline.

We will discuss, in brief, the impact of the “trickle-down” effect of tar sands development and transportation of fossil fuels.

2. Safety Issues

Areas to be highlighted in this section include: age of pipe, original use pipe was designed for, effectiveness of monitoring systems, concerns about diluted bitumen and its effects on pipelines, the crossing of two major watersheds, safety record of TransCanada, lack of independent oversight of fossil fuel transportation systems, effect of increased pressure needed to transport diluted bitumen, concerns over water.

3. Maintaining Ontario’s Position as a North American Leader in Greenhouse Gas Reduction

We will discuss:

Ontario’s Green Energy Act as an example to the world of responsible planning for a sustainable future.

The effects of approving Energy East on Ontario’s present position.

4. Local Democratic Input and Control

To be discussed:

Limits on input to the NEB

Concerns about aboriginal consultations regarding Energy East crossing Traditional Territories (cf Ring of Fire development)

5. Conclusion

We will list the reasons why we believe that Ontario should not approve the conversion of this pipeline in its territory.

We will ask that the Ontario Energy Board advise the Province of Ontario that it does not recommend approval of the Energy East Proposal in Ontario.