



WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael Fairbanks **SECRETARY-TREASURER** Leonard Alan Roy
DISTRICT I Raymond Auginaush, Sr. **DISTRICT II** Kathy Goodwin **DISTRICT III** Eugene "Umsy" Tibbetts

March 13, 2020

Commissioner Laura Bishop
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
N. St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Dear Commissioner Bishop,

Out of fear for the safety of my people, I am writing to you to request the postponement of the Water Quality Hearing on the 40I Permit which is scheduled for March 17th in Bemidji. Due to the fact that tribal members are the most impacted by the proposed line three project, and northern Minnesota is our home, we would like to participate in the regulatory process. However, the risk of COVID-19 in our communities is very great, especially for those who already have compromised immune systems. For us Anishinaabeg, our elders are one of our greatest assets—please do not put them in harm's way by having this meeting when there is so much uncertainty.

In light of the pandemic, please honor my request to reschedule this regulatory hearing, including providing notice and a corresponding extension of the written comment deadline.

Mii gwech

Michael Fairbanks
Chairman of White Earth Reservation

CC: White Earth Reservation Business Committee
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe