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Proposed Pipeline through Iowa Carries Risks

Energy Transfer Partners announced plans for a proposed oil pipeline that will run diagonally across Iowa, through 17 counties.¹ It will carry light sweet crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Illinois where it will link with another pipeline that will transport the oil to terminals along the Gulf of Mexico. The company also announced that some of the crude oil will be loaded onto rail cars for shipment to the east coast.

Although the company plans to seek voluntary easements, they may be asking the Iowa Utilities Board for permission to acquire the easement through eminent domain. The pipeline will require a permanent easement 50 feet wide, with no structures allowed on the easement. An even wider, temporary easement will be taken during construction.

This is the same oil that was involved in train wrecks in North Dakota in December 2013 and in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, Canada, in July 2013.

Pipelines leak. In March 2013, homeowners in Mayflower, Arkansas, were overwhelmed when oil from a leaky pipeline flowed into their basements, over their lawns and onto their streets.

The Iowa Chapter is concerned about the impacts a tragic accident or a leaky pipeline involving the highly flammable oil will have on Iowa's communities, farms and environment, including

- Polluting Iowa's streams, rivers, lakes and aquifers
- Tragic accidents affecting lives and personal property in the communities along the pipeline
- Destroying Iowa's farmland
- Harming wildlife and sensitive natural areas in its path

Furthermore, once the oil in this pipeline finally reaches the oil terminals in Nederland, Texas, there is absolutely no guarantee that the oil and refined products from the oil will remain in the United States for use in this country.

A new pipeline will delay the US transition to clean and renewable energy and more fuel-efficient vehicles. The United States needs to move away from fossil fuel extractions and to energy sources that have less impact on climate change.

The Iowa Chapter urges you to join in opposition to the pipeline proposed by Energy Transfer Partners.²

¹ Counties in Iowa that will be along the proposed route include Lyon, Sioux, O'Brien, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Webster, Boone, Story, Polk, Jasper, Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Jefferson, Van Buren, and Lee.

² The company is expected to seek permits to build the pipeline in late, 2014 through 2016. They expect to have the pipeline operational in fourth quarter, 2016.