

# Tarsands Pipeline Resolutions

Below are three resolutions that passed towns regarding tarsands pipelines. Some resolutions are one sentence and others are several paragraphs. Resolutions can take any form. Any state, county, city or township can pass a resolution stating their position on tarsands. While resolutions are not laws, they do allow elected officials to represent the citizens and show concerns.

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## Holt County Crude and Tarsands Pipeline Resolution

**Location:** Holt County, Nebraska

**Governing Body:** Holt County Board of Supervisors

**Passed:** April 30<sup>th</sup> 2013

Resolution: To oppose all crude oil and or tar sand pipelines across Holt County.

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## Waterford Tarsands Resolution

**Location:** Waterford, Maine

**Governing Body:** Waterford City Council

**Passed:** March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013

We, the citizens of Waterford Maine, have come to understand that the Portland-Montreal Pipeline which runs through our town is being considered for the transport of tar sands oil from Montreal to South Portland, which would be a reversal of flow and change from its original use.

a) We are opposed to any change in either the flow direction or the type product pumped for any of the current crude oil pipelines that flow through Waterford and cross the Crooked River it's tributaries, wetlands and aquifer.

b) Through the adoption of this resolution, the Town of Waterford expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands through our town via the existing Public Utility Easement. We feel that such transport is of no benefit to Waterford and entails unacceptable risk to our river, our public health and safety, property values, recreation resources, water quality, and the pristine natural resources upon which our community depends.

c) Through the adoption of this resolution, the town of Waterford calls upon the Maine State Legislature, United States Congress, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and State Departments to require thorough environmental impact reviews of all tar sands pipeline proposals, including a complete evaluation of the health, safety and environmental risks.

d.) Through the adoption of this resolution, the town of Waterford supports the creation of clear Federal and State guidelines for tracking the chemical composition of pipeline transported fuels so that local governments, citizens, and first responders can better understand, and plan for, the risks associated with the specific type of fuel flowing through or to their communities.

e.) Through the adoption of this resolution, the town of Waterford encourages the State of Maine and other states in the northeast to support policies that help develop and shift fuel use away from high impact fuels such as tar sands.

f.) Through the adoption of this resolution, the town of Waterford will transmit a copy of this resolution to the Maine State Congressional delegation, Maine State Representative of Waterford, and the Maine State Senator representing Waterford, the US EPA and State Departments.

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## **Casco Tarsands Resolution**

**Location: Casco, Maine**

**Governing Body: Town Meeting, Ballot Vote by Petition**

**Passed: January 12, 2013**

### **A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF LOCAL CITIZENS, WATER BODIES AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES IN RELATION TO THE POSSIBLE TRANSPORT OF TAR SANDS OIL THROUGH MAINE**

**WHEREAS**, Casco has previously supported local, state and/or federal actions to safeguard human health, ensure the safety of citizens, and protect the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Casco benefits immensely from the pristine lakes, streams, and ponds that define our region, and particularly the Crooked River, which have for generations provided recreation for residents and tourists alike and which enhance property values and generate substantial economic activity that sustains jobs; and

**WHEREAS** the Casco Comprehensive Plan (2003) confirmed that Casco's water resources are of primary importance to its residents, that protecting natural resources was the most important goal for the Town of Casco, and that the top three resources were 1) lakes and ponds, 2) groundwater, and 3) rivers, streams and wetlands; and

**WHEREAS**, the oil industry appears to plan to use an aging oil pipeline, built in 1950, to bring Canadian tar sands diluted bitumen through the Lakes Region to Casco Bay for export, even though the pipeline passes next to Sebago Lake and numerous other lakes, ponds, and streams in the Lakes Region and crosses the Crooked River and Androscoggin River in numerous places; and

**WHEREAS**, pipelines carrying tar sands have a three-times greater likelihood than the current oil pipelines of leaks and spills because of the corrosive properties of tar sands and the higher temperatures and pressures involved in pumping the viscous substance through pipelines; and

**WHEREAS**, tar sands spills are more dangerous and more difficult to clean up than conventional oil spills; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 a pipeline spilled more than a million gallons of diluted tar sands down a 30-mile stretch of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, creating a public safety, health, and environmental disaster with continuing, long-lasting impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, mining and processing of tar sands in the Canadian boreal forest requires a vast and destructive industrial operation, emits three to five times more carbon pollution per barrel than the production of a barrel of conventional U.S. crude oil, and causes many other problems; and

**WHEREAS**, the transport of tar sands oil to and through Oxford and Cumberland counties in the state of Maine creates unreasonable risks to the health, safety, natural resources, property and economic welfare of persons living in Casco;

**WHEREAS**, the transport of tar sands oil to and through Oxford and Cumberland counties in the state of Maine would not create or sustain many new jobs for Maine people since the necessary infrastructure is already built and in the ground;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that through the adoption of this resolution, the Town of Casco expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Maine and its deep concern about the risks that such transport create in relation to public health and safety, property values, and the clean natural resources upon which the local community depends; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Casco calls upon the Maine State Legislature and the United States Congress to ensure there will be thorough environmental impact reviews of

tar sands diluted bitumen pipeline proposals, including a complete evaluation of the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Casco supports the creation of clear Federal and State guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of various types of fuel so that local governments, citizens, and first responders can better know of, and plan for, the risks associated with the specific type of fuel flowing through or to their communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Casco encourages the State of Maine and other states in the northeast to support policies, including a regional Clean Fuels Standard, that will help shift oil use away from high impact fuels such as those from tar sands and toward cleaner energy options available in Maine and the region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Casco transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, U.S. Secretary of State, U.S. Secretary of Energy, U.S. Secretary of Interior, Chair of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Maine State Congressional delegation, Governors of Delaware, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, CEO of Portland Pipe Line Corporation, CEO of Montreal Pipe Line Limited, CEO of Imperial Oil Incorporated, CEO of Exxon Mobil, CEO of Enbridge Inc., Prime Minister of Canada, and the Provincial Premiers of Canada.