

LINE 5 IS STILL A THREAT TO MICHIGAN

ICDP and Democratic county parties have come together to support Governor Whitmer's and Attorney General, Dana Nessel's steps to shut down Line 5 through legal action. Almost two years ago, the Michigan lawsuit for doing this was moved to a Federal Court where nothing further has been done.

This spring the Federal Court agreed to reconsider their position. In March, 44 county Dem parties from all parts of the state signed on a letter to President Biden asking him to have his Solicitor comment on the issue for that court in their review. We have been working with the Michigan Democratic Party on this through resolutions for several years including a letter to President Biden. This March letter copied MDP but was printed on Iosco County Democratic Party letterhead.

Now we have a new opportunity to help move this ahead. Four Dems, Leonard Page of Cheboygan, Bob Kennedy of Alcona County, Marie Fielder of Alpena, and myself prepared another letter to President Biden that was signed by Lavora Barnes, MDP Chair. (Copies are available at the ICDP office.) To support this letter, we are inviting you and all the MI Dem county parties to send the President their own letters and attach a copy of the MDP letter with the details. More teamwork!

Line 5 is now 70 years old and takes crude oil from western Canada through Michigan to refineries in Sarnia Canada. The small amounts remaining in Michigan are available from other sources. This is a time when we are investing in renewable energy and should not take a risk on dangerous fossil fuels. A spill in the Straits of Mackinac or the many Michigan rivers it crosses would have a devastating impact on our economy. Now is the time to SHUT DOWN LINE 5. *(Copy of letter at the end of The Beacon).*



Jim Mortimer, Campaign Committee Chair

HEALTH CARE TRANSPORTATION STUDY STARTING – HELP NEEDED!

Several ICDP members have organized a grant with the Area Agency on Aging and the Iosco County Commission on Aging to study health care access transportation problems for seniors. They need help from a team of trained volunteers to interview, in person, people who are now receiving home-delivered meals in Iosco County. The effort will continue through May 2024. This is a real, structured research project sponsored by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. This project will help our rural neighbors access in the future health care they can't reach today.

If you are interested in helping on this team, please contact Richard Douglass at 810-599-642 or richard.douglass@ymail.com. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work.

Richard Douglass, Don Stansloski, Sam Purdy and Jim Mortimer, ICDP Members

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADES ACROSS IOSCO COUNTY

See pictures at the end of The Beacon

Hale: Jim Mortimer was leader of ICDP's presence in the Hale Parade – thanks for your work on this, Jim!

East Tawas: Jean and Bob Radin were the engineers of the sign making work bee. A Big thank you to Dave Lutz for his awesome trailer which was used in the Tawas parade. He scrubbed it out after the Adopt- A-Highway, painted it, made signs for the sides, added safety features, and built a sturdy portable step access and he was the driver of Jim Rupert's truck that pulled it in the blazing heat! Eleven members and one friend of a member participated: Jim Rupert and Dave Lutz in the truck cab, six in the trailer, four walking including Rome and Linda, Jean and Bob.

Oscoda: Cindy Schwedler organized this parade. Deirdre Honner shared that she had never participated in a parade before so had no idea what to expect. The start of the parade was impressive. Many parade participants lined up orderly on Furtaw Field and filed out, one by one, to US 23 where there were hundreds of people lined up on both sides of the street. Deirdre didn't think she had ever seen so many people in Oscoda and was struck by how many people cheered for the ICDP as we walked by and by the several people cheered for Cindy. Thank you to Rozanne and Susan for keeping us safe and waving from the car; thanks to Józef and Karen for carrying the banner; thanks to Rozanne's niece and nephew (and their kids) for throwing the beads and candy; thanks to Judy for taking pictures; thanks to Vicki for the signs and being there in spirit; and the biggest thanks of all to Cindy for organizing all this and taking the time to do it while her family was in town. Special comments from Deirdre:

Cindy, you were absolutely right - it was a blast and a hot one at that! We know so many people have commitments on this day; it's a big day for family and fun and we had friends in from out of town, too. I have no doubt, based on the reactions I heard from some of the parade watchers, that someone left now knowing Iosco County has an active Democratic Party. It's worth it. Please, if you can, mark your calendars now to walk with us (or in Tawas or Hale) next year. This is important because we show up! - Deidre Honner, Membership Committee Chair

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS:

According to Tom Davidson, Treasurer, the ICDP has raised \$25,000 against the goal of \$30,000. The more we raise this year, the more we have to support candidates during the upcoming election year in 2024.

EVENT UPDATE

See pictures at the end of The Beacon

Picnic: The Iosco County Dems hosted a picnic at East Tawas City Park July 22. There were 60 people in attendance. Our talented musician was Ted Wasilewski on acoustic guitar. We had several speakers: Kim Murphy from Voters Not Politicians, Joe Gutowski a legislative lobbyist and broadband expert, Dr Bob Lorinser 1st Congressional District Candidate and Mike Buza from the Sierra Club.

Austin Marsman was born and raised in rural southwest Michigan. Austin took office as Youth Vice Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party in the spring of 2023. Through his work, he remains committed to mobilizing young Michiganders statewide to actively participate in the democratic process and advocate for progressive policies that reflect their values. Austin serves as an elected Board of Education Trustee and as a member of various local boards and committees. He currently resides in Martin, Michigan with his family. Austin spent over an hour talking to the Iosco County Democrats about engaging the youth vote. We had 20 people in attendance including a new member!

Austin's key takeaways included that the ICDP needs to build a committee where people want to stay and can stay and should focus on topics that are important to young voters including affordable housing, reproductive and abortion rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and increased access to mental health resources. Young voters won't come to events like we have at HQ. We need to look for ways to get to them. Look to host events on campuses (ACC in Oscoda, others?); voter registration events; community services events; fairs; anywhere the young voters are. Hold voter registration events.

He mentioned a quote from Elissa Slotkin: "We are in a decade of instability". He said that younger voters are angry; gun violence is awful, coming out of COVID, and limited access to mental health resources. We need to look for ways we can message better. Make sure our social media presence is current (he mentioned TikTok and Greenfly). Write letters to the editor, look for billboards, create voter guides, run ads, and make



sure to highlight that Democrats are the adults in the room. He said it may be worth connecting with the League of Women Voters (Alpena). He mentioned several times how impressed he was with the energy of the Iosco County Democratic Party.

Deirdre Honner, Membership Committee Chair

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S RIGHT TO READ

Public libraries are being targeted at an alarming rate by individuals and extremist groups to remove books that discuss topics such as racism, sexuality, gender, and history – censoring different perspectives. With the rise of book banning and censorship efforts in libraries around the country, the Michigan Library Association (MLA) is launching a six-month MI Right to Read campaign, encouraging residents to oppose censorship and book banning efforts and protect their First Amendment right to read whatever they choose to at public libraries.

As a member of the coalition, you will have access to a toolkit of resources to urge your network and community to protect the right to read

1. Share on social media – tell your friends and family to join!
2. Write a letter to the editor in your local paper.

Contact MI Right to Read if you're willing to author an opinion piece or help in other ways at <https://www.mirighttoread.com/parents>.

Deirdre Honner, Membership Committee Chair

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: IOSCO NEWS HERALD, AUGUST 15, 2023

I am a Navy Veteran having served our country for 22 years. I recently looked at Congressman Jack Bergman's (R-MI-1) voting record as he represents me in the First Congressional District of Michigan. I was appalled to find that Congressman Bergman voted against many of the resolutions that would aid veterans.

Bergman was one of three members of the MI delegation to vote against the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021 which extended educational benefits to members of the National Guard and Reserves. According to the Defense Manpower Data Center, this would have benefited the 20,892 guard and reserve members in Michigan.

Bergman voted against H.R. 4350 an amendment by Rep. Elissa Slotkin to the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide DOD medical providers with mandatory training with respect to the potential health effects of PFAS and add additional language to address PFAS contamination. According to the



Michigan PFAS Action Response Team, there are nine sites in Iosco County that are being investigated for PFAS contamination.

Bergman voted against an amendment by Rep. Rashida Tlaib to the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act that strengthens servicemember protections regarding medical debt collections and credit reporting, including prohibiting the collection of medical debt for the first two years and prohibiting debt arising from medically necessary procedures from ever appearing on servicemember credit reports.

Bergman voted against an amendment to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act by Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) to close a federal loophole by making military education benefits such as Department of Defense Tuition Assistance count as federal educational assistance funds and limits the availability of federal funds for proprietors.

How Congressman Bergman, the former Commanding General of the Marine Corps Reserve, did not support these bills is incomprehensible to me.

Posted on his Congressional website on 27 July, 2023, Bergman wrote, "Supporting our Nation's Veterans and servicemembers is one of the most sacred duties for a Member of Congress." However, his voting record clearly shows the opposite. Congressman Bergman certainly will not have my vote in 2024, and every Veteran in the 1st Congressional District should carefully review Congressman Bergman's voting record before they decide who best represents our needs in Congress.

If you're upset with Rep. Bergman's abysmal voting record for our servicemen and women, call his district office at 231-944-7633 and let him know.

Paul Kratochwill CDR USNR (RET), Au Sable Township

SERVICE & EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Check the website at <https://www.ioscocountydems.org/upcoming-events> for additional information

(\$) = fundraiser -Suggested donation minimums for Brew & Stew \$15, Tiered levels for Member Fundraisers \$35 Copper, \$50 Silver, \$75 Platinum, \$100 Gold

September

(\$) 20- 6:00-8:30- Italian Night on Jose Lake- Gloria & Michael Brooks. RSVP by September 13

27- 2:00-4:00- Adopt-A-Highway- Meet at US-23 & Aulerich Rd. Need volunteers to help clean the highway.

October

(\$) 11- 4:00- Member Fundraiser-224 Newman St.- Polish Dinner- Karen Drozdowska

(\$) 28- 5:00-8:00- Halloween Member Fundraiser- Carole Bleau and Gary Dogonski



THE BEACON NEWSLETTER
3RD QUARTER: SEPTEMBER 2023

November

11- Member Fundraiser-Tailgate Party Michigan vs Penn State @ 224 Newman
St-Rozanne and Jesse
(\$) 15- 4:00-5:30- 224 Newman St.- Brew & Stew- Native American Heritage- Betty

December

9- 6:00-9:00- Holiday Party

Carole Bleau, ICDP Chair

To submit articles or photos to The Beacon, please email Gloria Brooks, Editor at gloriadbrooks@att.net by the 15th of November for the 4th quarter edition published on December 1st.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ICDP!



Walleye Fish Fry Fundraiser June 2023



Hale Parade July 2023



Oscoda Parade July 2023



Oscoda Parade July 2023



Oscoda Parade July 2023



Picnic in the Park July 2023



Picnic in the Park July 2023



Picnic in the Park July 2023



Picnic in the Park July 2023



Picnic in the Park July 2023



Picnic in the Park July 2023



Picnic in the Park July 2023

The Iosco County Democrats wish you a Happy Independence Day

America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and on unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.
- Harry Truman

ICDP 224 Newman Street, East Tawas, MI
ioscocitydems.org

Ad in Iosco News Herald July 2023



Blue Moon over Lake Huron August 30, 2023 - Richard Douglass

August 24, 2023

President Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C., 20500

Re: Nessel v. Enbridge (6th Circuit Case No. 23-1671)

Dear Mr. President:

Recent developments at the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals cause us to renew our request that the Solicitor General intervene in the above-referenced case now pending at that Court. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel is appealing the district court opinion of Judge Janet Neff dated August 18, 2022, which granted Enbridge's request for removal of state litigation dealing with Enbridge Line 5. On July 21, 2023, the 6th Circuit accepted the appeal —thus setting the stage for full appellate review of whether the case should now be returned to state court.

By letter dated March 16, 2023, (copy attached) a group of 44 MDP county parties asked you to have the US Solicitor intervene in this appeal and advise the court on the correctness of the Neff removal decision.

Michigan residents everywhere are concerned about the risk of failure in this 70-year-old pipeline. We are confident that the federal district court's decision granting removal should and will be set aside. Intervention by the Solicitor would be most instructive to the 6th Circuit. Once returned to state court, that process will properly and finally resolve serious legal questions about a state easement, involving a state lakebed and the state's public trust doctrine.

We therefore renew our request for Solicitor intervention in a matter of vital importance to all Michigan voters. This legal matter does not belong in federal court where the district court unfortunately has done absolutely nothing for two years to move the case forward.

Very truly yours,


Lavora Barnes

cc: Elizabeth Prelogar, Solicitor General
950 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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