

Citizen Resolution # 020321

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Avoid All New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Fossil fuels use a lot of water and pose threats to our waterways. Whether it's an oil spill from a pipeline, a coal ash spill, or thermal pollution from general operations, there is a risk of permanent water contamination. Additionally, the recent Wisconsin Task Force on Climate Change report declared that Wisconsin will not be able to make meaningful climate action addressing fossil fuel infrastructure, which at a minimum, should require Wisconsin to not allow any new fossil fuel infrastructure projects. The report recommended that state agencies implement this suggestion. The Report states that Wisconsin should "avoid new fossil fuel infrastructure" and that it was "consistently and repeatedly requested" in public comments, according to the report.

Building any new fossil fuels will lock Wisconsin into carbon emissions for decades. While investment firms, businesses, and governments have pledged to move away from fossil fuels, any new investments into its infrastructure would not accrue any long-term benefits and could end up costing Wisconsin. For example, the proposed fossil gas plant in Superior, the Nemadji Trail Energy Center, will be incredibly expensive and one analysis says it will be a 'stranded asset' by 2032 and leave ratepayers on the hook for millions.

Not only do fossil fuels contribute to climate change through emissions, but they also put the health and safety of our communities at risk. Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline expansion project would put Copper Falls State Park, critical wetlands, and natural resources especially important to Tribes in the region at risk of contamination when Line 5 has already spilled over 1.1 million gallons of oil according to the National Wildlife Federation.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress direct the Natural Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources to avoid all new fossil fuel infrastructure.

**Janice Penn
38792 Poppe Rd
Highbridge, WI 54846
715274-2942
jampenn@yahoo.com
Ashland County**

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.