CHATHAM COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Resolution Opposing the Enbridge Pipeline in Chatham County

WHEREAS, the County of Chatham ("Chatham County" or the "County") is a vibrant and growing community whose identity is rooted in its working farms, forested landscapes, rural culture, and commitment to sustainable and locally driven economic development; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has previously adopted a mission to promote a safe and healthy community by ensuring compliance with environmental health standards, educating the public on environmental health issues, and protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has a further mission to provide high-quality public services, protect the health, safety, and environment of its residents, and maintain a responsive government that supports the community as a preferred place to live, work, and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has a further mission to promote sustainability in the County, including by promoting renewable energy, waste reduction, and generally improving sustainability in the community, and the County has performed these goals by conducting, among other work, greenhouse gas inventories, supporting weatherization programs, instituting an active Climate Change Advisory Committee, and implementing conservation ordinances such as watershed protection ordinances and riparian buffer ordinances; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is committed to the preservation of the farmlands within the County, including by execution of a Farmland Preservation Program in coordination with several other organizations committed to the preservation of farmlands; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has further adopted Plan Chatham, a comprehensive planning document that reflects the County's commitment to protecting farmland, forestland, and the County's natural environment and resources while supporting responsible growth that serves the long-term interests of current and future residents; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has adopted a mission of protecting the rights and interests of low income residents within the County, including by instituting an active Affordable Housing team that seeks to ensure that County residents have access to safe and dignified housing within their budget, providing educational information about tenant rights, establishing a Low Income Tax Relief Program providing assistance to eligible residents, and providing investments in affordable housing through the Chatham County Housing Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge Inc. f/k/a PSNC Energy ("Enbridge") recently announced its intent to construct a natural gas pipeline that would be 12 inches in diameter and would span approximately 28 miles through Chatham County from Siler City to Moncure (the "Enbridge Pipeline" or "Pipeline"); and

WHEREAS, Enbridge does not own the real property necessary to develop this Pipeline, but instead, Enbridge would be required to "condemn" or "take" the land of private property owners in order to build this Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has not publicly released detailed information about its intended pathway for this Pipeline, however, Enbridge has requested access to numerous private lands for purposes of surveying the pathway for the Pipeline and identifying the exact real property that Enbridge will "take" from private property owners of Chatham County for this Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has already filed a lawsuit against a private property owner who resisted Enbridge's efforts to enter private real property for purposes of planning the route of the natural gas Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has provided very little information to the public, regulators, or the County about its supposed need for this Pipeline, and at this point, the public and the County can only speculate whether this Pipeline is necessary or appropriate at all; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge has published a nondetailed map setting forth an approximate corridor for the Enbridge Pipeline, and based on this map, it is obvious that the Pipeline frustrates several of the aforementioned goals of the County, threatens important and valued environmental features within the County, threatens farmland and agriculture, and further threatens the public health, safety, and welfare of the County's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge's public information about the Pipeline shows that the proposed corridor would be near Jordan Lake and likely cross the Haw River, and furthermore, it is exceptionally likely that the Pipeline would cross other waterways, wetlands, and forested areas, in addition to potentially impacting an endangered species within the County; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County's precious environmental resources will be negatively impacted by the proposed corridor of the Pipeline, and therefore, the proposed Pipeline would harm the County's and its residents' important interests in preserving the environment of the County; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge's public information about the Pipeline suggests that the proposed corridor would likely cross through substantial farmlands of the County and thereby restrict the way in which the farmers of our County could use their lands; and

WHEREAS, Enbridge's public information about the Pipeline corridor suggests that areas occupied by vulnerable low-income residents would be negatively impacted by the Pipeline, and these low-income residents may be unable to oppose Enbridge's efforts to condemn their properties; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of natural gas through high-pressure pipelines carries an inherent and well-documented risk of explosion, fire, and uncontrolled gas release, and such incidents have caused loss of life and widespread destruction of property and natural resources in other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, to illustrate the danger of transporting and storing natural gas, it has been reported that Enbridge's Line 5 in Iron County, Wisconsin, released approximately 1.3 million gallons of natural gas liquids into the environment and thereby caused substantial destruction; and

WHEREAS, natural gas is a fossil fuel, and its largest component is methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas and major contributor to global warming; and

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2026, the Board of Commissioners for Chatham County (the "Board") held a special meeting to hear public comments on the proposed Enbridge Pipeline, and the unanimous and overwhelming sentiment expressed by the public during this meeting was opposed to the Enbridge Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the above-stated findings represent only a partial list of the dangers of Enbridge developing the proposed Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Enbridge Pipeline contradicts the County's above-stated missions and goals, all of which represent public purposes appropriate for the County's vigilance and protection, including but not limited to the County's missions to protect the environment, encourage sustainability and renewable resources, preserve precious farmlands, and protect vulnerable low-income residents within the County; and

WHEREAS, if the Enbridge Pipeline is developed in the County, it will likely harm the environment and farmlands, impact low-income residents, and put at risk the health, safety, and welfare of the County's residents; and

WHEREAS, principles of justice, fairness, law, prudence, and the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County all demand that the County thoroughly investigate the Enbridge Pipeline and, where allowed by law and supported by the facts, oppose the construction of the Pipeline, including by challenges to environmental permits, coordination with other groups with like missions, opposition in the media, organizing residents who also oppose the Pipeline, educating the public about their rights in condemnation actions, taking other steps allowed by law to oppose Enbridge's anticipated efforts to condemn private property for the Pipeline, and otherwise take all reasonable actions to oppose the Pipeline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Chatham hereby adopts this Resolution opposing Enbridge's Pipeline and authorizing the County to take those steps allowed by law, supported by the facts and otherwise reasonable and prudent to resist development of the Pipeline.

This the 21st day of September, 2026.

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Amanda Robertson, Chair

ATTEST:

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Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board