

RESOLUTION OF THE MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING THE BYHALIA CONNECTION PIPELINE

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council is concerned with the health, safety, and well-being of Memphians, present and future; and

WHEREAS, Memphians' health, safety, and well-being are impacted by the physical environment within which they live, work, and call home; and

WHEREAS, the physical environment of Southwest Memphis is at risk of being altered by the proposed Byhalia Connection Pipeline, which seeks to run a crude oil pipeline system nearly 45 miles – connecting Memphis to Marshall County, MS – traversing local neighborhoods, public school property, personal residences, and the Memphis Sand Aquifer, i.e., Memphis and Shelby County's primary source of public drinking water, utilized by senior citizens and youth alike; and

WHEREAS, as proposed, the 45-mile crude oil pipeline would specifically sit atop the Memphis Sand Aquifer and Davis Wellhead, which MLGW utilizes to provide drinking water to countless Memphis and Shelby County men, women, children, and families, before crossing Wellhead Protection Zone 2, on its way through Northern Mississippi where the same high-pressure pipeline would pass near various Source Water Protection Areas to our south; and

WHEREAS, the placement of said pipeline should not be considered solely as an issue isolated from the context of national facts and figures; in fact, the sociohealth consequences are both pervasive and sustained; as of November 2017, African Americans were, and continue to be, 75 percent *more likely* to reside near toxic oil and gas infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, according to the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, in analyzing data collected to examine the impact of proximity to oil infrastructure on risk for several cancers, including lymphoma, lung, breast, colon, bladder, and prostate, their research determined that living within 30 miles of oil infrastructure was associated with an increased risk for cancer of all types, with susceptibility increasing with age; notably, 35.1 percent of Memphians residing within the 38109 zip code – a proposed site for a section of the pipeline – are 50 years old and above; 96.5 percent are African American; and

WHEREAS, despite proponents of the pipeline citing eminent domain to rationalize placing crude oil infrastructure within local neighborhoods, public school property, personal residences, and atop the Memphis Sand Aquifer, the argument is spurious, as the project fails to confer some benefit or advantage to the public residing within the City of Memphis and Shelby County; rather, the project poses a long-term health, safety, and economic detriment to our citizenry, local environment, and property values; and

WHEREAS, as we discuss the future of this great place we call home, and work to champion efforts conducive to our collective success, let us do so in a manner that strives to protect and improve the quality of life and well-being of every person living within our municipal limits, regardless of their census tract, income-level, or platform.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Memphis City Council hereby opposes the Byhalia Connection Pipeline, and requests that Byhalia Pipeline LLC seek an alternative route for its crude oil pipeline that does not pass through the City of Memphis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Memphis City Council requests that MLGW (1) oppose Byhalia Pipeline LLC's proposal to route the pipeline through the Davis Wellfield, any other wellhead protection or management zone identified in MLGW's Wellhead Protection Plan, and any areas of known or potential breaches in the clay confining layer separating the shallow aquifer from the Memphis Sand Aquifer; (2) refuse to grant Byhalia Pipeline LLC the right to any easement that the pipeline company or its agents seek to obtain from MLGW; and (3) work with the Council to develop ordinances to protect wellhead protection and management zones from pollution sources such as crude oil pipelines and similar industrial infrastructure; this resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of the City requiring it.

Sponsors:

Councilman Edmund Ford, Sr.
Councilman Dr. Jeff Warren