

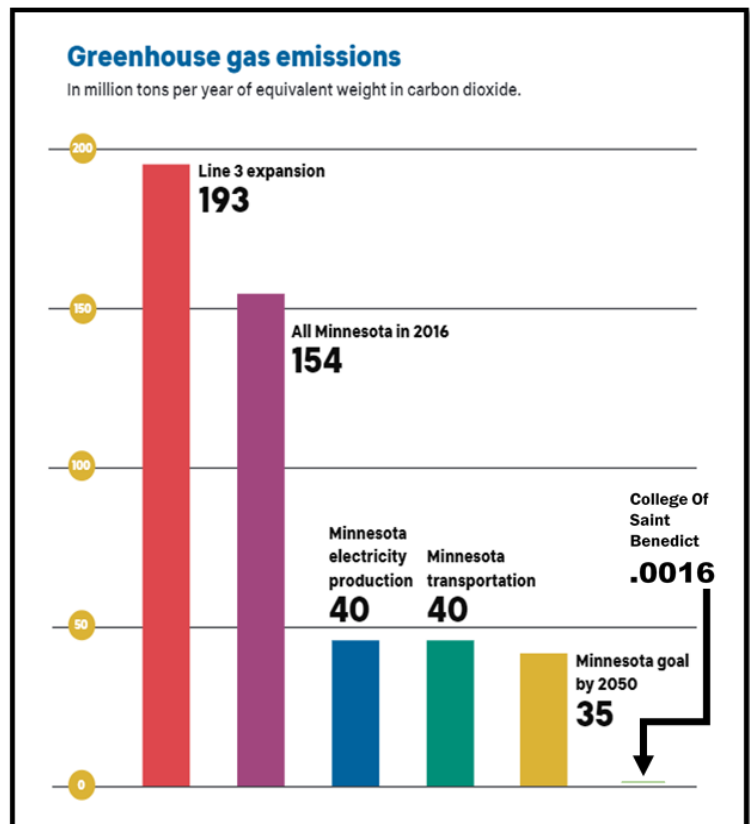
CSBSJU Joint Sustainability Council Statement of Opposition to the Line 3 Pipeline

Enbridge’s Line 3 Tar Sands pipeline stands counter to our institutional, state, and national goals for carbon neutrality in the face of [climate crisis](#). Its threat to [indigenous rights](#), sovereignty, and well-being are counter to our [efforts toward reconciliation](#) with our Native nation neighbors. Line 3 will be economically, ethically, and environmentally unsustainable in the long term, while contributing to the global climate crisis is that will shape our students’ futures. For these reasons, **the CSBSJU Sustainability Council opposes the Enbridge Line 3 Pipeline and urges the CSB/SJU community to raise awareness and speak out against it.**

As a Benedictine institution committed to justice, peace, respect, and dignity of work in God’s creation, **our school is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.**¹ **By opposing Line 3, our college affirms its practical commitment to these concrete ideals of justice and respect for creation.** We must push President Biden, the Minnesota EPA, the banks supporting Enbridge, and other enablers to stop putting profits ahead of human and environmental health.

Climate Impacts²

In 2006-7, SJU President Br. Dietrich Reinhart and CSB President Mary Ann Baenninger signed the American College and University Climate Commitment with a goal of becoming **carbon neutral by 2035**. In 2015, President Mary Dana Hinton reaffirmed that commitment.³ Seventy faculty and staff have publicly urged climate action for the sake of our students.⁴ Research by Minnesota 350 has shown that building Line 3 would have the climate impact equivalent of 50 coal plants,⁵ with an annual greenhouse gas impact of more than the entire state



Greenhouse Gas Emission Chart, from A Giant Step Backward by MN350.org.

¹ Laurie Hamon and Eugene Macalester, “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Update” Office of the Presidents, published February 5, 2021.

² Honor the Earth. “Line 3 and the Climate Crisis.” https://www.stopline3.org/s/SNL3_ClimateChange.pdf.

³ <https://www.csbsju.edu/sustainability/our-institutional-commitment>.

⁴ Grosse, Corrie. “Climate change requires urgent action to combat an ever-changing environment.” <http://csbsjurecord.com/2019/01/opinion-climate-change-requires-urgent-action-to-combat-an-ever-changing-environment/>.

⁵ Abraham, John. “The Legal Fight to Leave the Dirtiest Fossil Fuels in the Ground,” The Guardian, June 14th, 2018.

of Minnesota in 2016.⁶ **The proposed expansion of Line 3 would emit in one year what the College of Saint Benedict would emit in 17,078.8 years.**⁷ If we are committed to carbon neutrality outside of our institution as well, we cannot let this pipeline be built.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that we must reduce our emissions by 45 percent globally by 2030. This demands a halt to new fossil fuel infrastructure. Line 3 would **cost the Midwest \$287 billion** in climate impacts in its first 30 years of operation,⁸ while we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. **We cannot put the future of our students at stake by exacerbating climate change.**

Environmental Damage

The Line 3 pipeline would run through northern Minnesota, carrying **one million barrels of oil a day**⁹ from Alberta, Canada's tar sands to Superior, Wisconsin. The proposed route would cross **227 lakes and rivers**, including the Mississippi River and other rivers that feed directly into Lake Superior.¹⁰ All pipelines spill—It's just a matter of when, and how badly. When Line 3 **leaks toxic, heavy oil** into Minnesota waterways and Indigenous historic, sacred sites, how will we justify our inaction?

Lack of Economic Need

According to the Minnesota Department of Commerce's **own analysis, Enbridge failed to demonstrate Line 3 was needed**,¹¹ and did not provide a **legally required** oil demand forecast—an attempt to cover for the fact that major oil companies have been slowly divesting from Tar Sands oil for two years.¹² The Minnesota Department of Commerce has repeatedly recommended that Line 3 be denied on economic grounds, and the judge responsible for presiding over the case and issuing a legal recommendation said that Enbridge's proposal did not meet the economic standards set by Minnesota law.¹³ Oil from the pipeline will **not economically aid Minnesotans**,¹⁴ and pipeline construction so far has **not benefitted Minnesota construction workers**—Despite Enbridge promising 6,500 local jobs, only (1,548) 33% of 2020 pipeline workers were Minnesota residents and 75% of work hours were filled by out-of-state workers.¹⁵ **Enbridge has repeatedly broken or bent environmental, ethical, and economic safeguards in order to build this pipeline, and yet continues to move forward.**

⁶ "A Giant Step Backward," MN350, Sierra Club, Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate, Honor the Earth, Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, Published PDF Factbook, accessed March 11th, 2021. <https://mn350.org/giant-step-backward/>.

⁷ Margeaux Pederson, College of Saint Benedict Greenhouse Gas Reporting, February 2021. Carbon emissions data not available for St. John's through current measurements.

⁸ <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project-file?legacyPath=/opt/documents/34079/Line%203%20Revised%20FEIS%20Ch%2005.pdf>.

⁹ "A Giant Step Backward." <https://mn350.org/giant-step-backward/>.

¹⁰ "A Giant Step Backward." <https://mn350.org/giant-step-backward/>.

¹¹ "Minnesota Department of Commerce Recommends Line 3 approval be denied" Minnesota Department of Commerce (2018).

¹² <https://cleantechnica.com/2017/03/01/yet-another-energy-company-bails-canadian-tar-sands-oil-koch-next/>.

¹³ "Minnesota Department of Commerce Recommends Line 3 approval be denied" Minnesota Department of Commerce (2018).

¹⁴ Stop Line 3. "No Need." Published Fact Sheet. <https://www.stopline3.org/issues/#noneed>.

¹⁵ Enbridge Energy Line 3 Permit Compliance Filing. Feb 11, 2021. <https://healingmnstories.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/line-3-q4-jobs.pdf>.

Indigenous Reparations for CSB/SJU's History of Boarding Schools

Enbridge's route crosses the 1854 and 1855 treaty territory where Anishinaabe people retain the right to hunt, fish, gather medicines, and harvest wild rice.¹⁶ The [human impacts](#) of pipeline construction and the environmental damage of oil spills will permanently damage their ability to exercise these rights, violating the treaty.¹⁷ Indigenous groups were not consulted on the building of Line 3 through their land. Three tribal governments and hundreds of Anishinaabe and Dakota community members in Minnesota are actively opposing this pipeline built on their sovereign land. Building Line 3 would continue a legacy of state-sanctioned oppression of Indigenous people.

As students, faculty, and staff at CSBSJU, creating and adopting a statement against Line 3 is an additional acknowledgement of the role our institution took in the mistreatment and cultural trauma done to Indigenous peoples. Thanks to Ted Gordon's research¹⁸ with the White Earth Nation, we have more knowledge of the Native boarding schools operated on our campuses from 1884-1897, which stripped Indigenous children of their heritage. **As reparations for these actions, we must stand up for Indigenous rights now.**

Institutional Learning Goals

CSB / SJU carries out five Institutional learning goals on the foundation of the Benedictine Values. If we are truly institutions that **embrace the differences** of our Native communities, **think deeply** about social justice and community building, **engage globally** with the climate crisis, **serve graciously** to those we are connected to, and **live courageously** every single day, **we must say No to Line 3.** We pledged this summer that our institutions would show up for those who are marginalized and those who are vulnerable. Let's use our power as institution to stand up for justice in the broader community.

We urge CSB/SJU students, alumnae, staff, faculty, and the administrations to sign onto this letter of opposition, to share the letter with elected officials, and to divest from banks funding Enbridge's Line 3. By supporting climate science, Indigenous rights, and a clean environment, these actions demonstrate our commitment to justice, equity, and inclusion.

Signed,

The College of Saint Benedict / Saint John's University Joint Sustainability Council

¹⁶ Honor The Earth. "Treaty Rights and Oil Pipelines." PDF Fact sheet.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58a3c10abebafb5c4b3293ac/t/5bea2acc89858370442dec08/1542073038236/factsheet+TREATY+RIGHTS.pdf>.

¹⁷ <https://www.stopline3.org/issues/#indigenousrights>.

¹⁸ <https://www.csbsju.edu/news/native-americans-202>.