

Testimony of Evan Whiteford, LIUNA Member and Pipeline Marketing Representative

1 **Q: Please state your name, affiliation, and address.**

2 A: My name is Evan Whiteford. I am a member of LIUNA Local 563 which is affiliated with
3 both the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota and the Laborers
4 International Union of North America (LIUNA). I currently live in Ray, North Dakota.

5 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

6 A: I am giving my testimony in this case in order to explain what skilled union pipeliners do,
7 how we work to protect public safety and the environment, what it's like to work on an Enbridge
8 project, and what approval of the Line 3 Replacement Project would mean to skilled local
9 pipeline workers and their families.

10 **Q. What is your experience with pipeline construction?**

11 A: I have completed more than 20,000 hours of work on dozens of pipeline construction and
12 maintenance projects since I began my pipelining career in 2007. During that time, I had the
13 opportunity to serve as rank-and-file laborer, union steward, and foreman, and to work for
14 leading national pipeline builders such as Henkel & McCoy, Infracore, Michels, Minnesota
15 Limited, Otis Eastern, Precision, Price-Gregory, Rockford, Smith, and UPI.

16 During my career as a pipeline laborer, I helped to complete projects that ranged from 42-inch
17 mainlines to small gathering lines and well-site connections. My work and training have given
18 me a working knowledge of all major aspects of pipeline construction, including environmental
19 controls, coating, locating, lowering-in, tie-in, testing, and clean-up.

20 In addition to my experience as a front-line laborer and foreman, I served as a union steward on
21 pipeline projects for roughly four years. In that capacity, I was responsible for contract
22 compliance and oversight of safety and working conditions on a given project, as well as
23 working with management to address issues that come up on the job.

24 My current position as a Pipeline Marketing Representative for the Laborers Union's Great
25 Lakes Regional Organizing Committee, which I have held since January 2015, affords me
26 additional opportunities to observe pipeline construction work.

27 **Q: What training have you received to perform pipeline construction work?**

28 A: Union pipeliners receive three kinds of training. First, we receive classroom and hand-on
29 training through the Laborers' Training Center. I've personally completed more than 280 hours
30 of training, including classes on Pipeline Technologies, CPR/First Aid, Fire Watch, Flagging,
31 OSHA 30, Blueprint Reading, and Demolition (see Exhibit 1 for an outline of my union's
32 pipeline technology and safety training courses).

33 Second, we receive owner- and project-specific training on the environmental, quality, and safety
34 standards set by each owner, and the circumstances of each project. Third, new hands learn on

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35 the job from more experienced pipeliners like me, including many who have worked on projects
36 all over the U.S.

37 **Q: What experience do you have with the implementation of environmental measures on**
38 **pipeline construction projects?**

39 A: I have worked both as a laborer on the environmental crew, which is the crew responsible for
40 the installation and maintenance of environmental protection measures on a project, and for
41 restoring the land to its natural state once the project is complete. Our top priority on the
42 environmental crew is protection of wetlands and waterways. The measures we installed
43 included silt fences, hay bales, water logs, and berms which are designed to contain runoff or
44 prevent soil erosion. At the end of a project, our work included seeding and mulching to restore
45 vegetation.

46 While environmental controls are the primary responsibility of the environmental crew,
47 environmental preservation is a priority for every laborer on the job. At the beginning of each
48 project, everyone on the job is trained on the specific environmental features we will encounter,
49 the plan to preserve those features, and how those features will be marked to ensure that they are
50 properly preserved.

51 Foreman tie-ins

52 **Q: What knowledge and experience do you have regarding pipeline integrity and spill**
53 **prevention?**

54 A: My pipeline construction experience has given me a detailed knowledge not only of proper
55 construction and maintenance techniques, but also of pipeline integrity risks that these
56 techniques are designed to manage. In addition, in my capacity as a Pipeline Marketing
57 Representative, I have spent hundreds of hours observing proper and improper construction
58 practices, and investigated dozens of pipeline integrity failures.

59 As someone who takes pride in his work as a pipeliner and who also values our natural
60 resources, and spends most of his life outdoors, I take pipeline integrity issues very seriously. My
61 union has worked actively to raise construction, maintenance and operating standards in the
62 pipeline industry, especially in North Dakota where poor-quality construction of gathering lines
63 has contributed to too many avoidable incidents. I believe that the Line 3 Replacement is
64 essential precisely because it is the best way to prevent future spills.

65 **Q. Does your union's members have direct knowledge of Enbridge projects?**

66 A: Yes, our members have extensive experience working on both maintenance and new
67 construction projects for Enbridge. In my experience, Enbridge is the leading source of pipeline
68 construction employment in Minnesota and North Dakota, and I would estimate that hundreds of
69 our members have worked on Enbridge projects. I also personally performed maintenance on
70 existing Enbridge pipelines when I was employed by UPI.

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71 **Q. Do you have any observations about Enbridge projects compared non-Enbridge**
72 **projects?**

73 A: Enbridge does more to set and enforce high quality and safety standards, in my experience
74 and the experience of many of our members, than any other pipeline owner. The first thing our
75 members often observe about Enbridge jobs is that they use more third-party inspectors to
76 oversee the work. Every pipeline owner employs third-party inspectors, but most owners assign a
77 single inspector to cover four or five crews who may work many miles apart, while Enbridge
78 typically provides an inspector for each crew.

79 It's no fun when you have someone watching over your shoulder, but you end up with better-
80 quality work and you catch problems earlier. In my experienced, strong oversight by qualified
81 third-party inspectors and use of capable contractors are the most important factors in the success
82 of a project and the quality of the infrastructure in the ground.

83 The second notable aspect of working for Enbridge, in my experience, was the commitment to
84 safety. The company was incredibly strict in its implementation of both safety regulations and
85 policies. While safety is critically important for the well-being of the workforce, in my
86 experience, a strong safety culture can also contribute to spill prevention because it encourages
87 careful work and puts a priority on doing a job right the first time.

88 **Q. How do you think approval of the Project would directly affect Minnesota construction**
89 **workers?**

90 A: If the project were approved, it would create hundreds of high-quality job opportunities for
91 local workers, including workers who are already employed in the construction industry as well
92 as young people looking to get started in a construction career.

93 Northern Minnesota has many skilled pipeliners who would welcome an opportunity to work
94 close to home. We also have a lot of locals who are struggling to find family-supporting work in
95 the area where they grew up. A big project like the proposed Line 3 Replacement could give
96 hundreds of local residents a chance to gain experience and become union members. While many
97 pipeliners travel for work, our union contracts require that at least 50% of workforce be hired
98 through local union halls.

99 I have participated in several major projects like the Line 3 Replacement, and seen hundreds of
100 individuals go from a single pipeline job to a career. In my role as a steward, it was my job to
101 recruit new members, and I estimate that in my career, I have brought nearly 200 into the union.
102 Many of those I recruited continue to work in the pipeline industry or in other aspects of union
103 construction.