

Friends of the Headwaters Organization and Mission

Friends of the Headwaters, which is made up of a Board of Directors, Steering Committees, technical advisors and several other committed, talented individuals held their first meeting on January 13, 2014.

This group, which has attracted over 4000 supporters and is continuing to grow statewide, is committed to informing the public about the risks associated with the construction, use and maintenance of the previously posed Sandpiper and currently proposed Line 3 pipelines. Enbridge's record of spills, the highly flammable and toxic nature of Bakken crude (Sandpiper), the potential for transporting tar sands oil (Line3), and the resource features of the proposed corridor for these pipelines – through this area's shallow aquifers, under several rivers and near several lakes – are just some of our concerns. From the beginning, we have advocated for the following:

- A longer comment period to provide citizens who are seasonal residents with a chance to study the route and respond to the issues.**
- A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to assess worst case scenarios and analyze risk to human and natural resources.**
- Removal of this pipeline route from Hubbard County and Minnesota lake country. (We have provided the MN PUC with a detailed rationale for alternative routes, which avoid the Mississippi Headwaters and the lake country of this area.)**
- More rigorous federal and state routing criteria, regulations, and inspections for all pipelines.**
- A process that removes pipeline approval from the MN Dept of Commerce and restores it to Minnesota's Environmental Quality Board, Pollution Control Agency and the Dept of Natural Resources.**