



October 8, 2018

Mr. Philippe Brassac, CEO
Crédit Agricole
12 Place des États Unis
92120 Montrouge
France

Dear Mr. Brassac,

Crédit Agricole is slated to renew its role in a US \$1.48 billion line of credit to Enbridge US Inc. on October 16, 2018. Enbridge Energy Partners LP also has a \$625 million line of credit that is set to expire on December 31, 2018. We urge you to decline renewal of both credit facilities.

As we have already brought to your attention, Calgary-based energy giant Enbridge is pushing a new 1,000-mile Line 3 pipeline to carry tar sands oil from Alberta to Wisconsin through Minnesota, which it is billing as a replacement line. Line 3 is the largest investment this company has made to date.¹ Enbridge is not seeking project-specific financing for the pipeline and is instead funding the project from its general funds. Therefore any credit provided to Enbridge will facilitate the construction of the Line 3 tar sands pipeline and provide crucial liquidity to the company.²

By renewing Enbridge's credit facility, Crédit Agricole would be facing reputational risks similar to those faced for the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The new Line 3 pipeline directly threatens the cultural survival of the culture of Ojibwe Indigenous peoples. The route would pierce the heart of the 1855 Treaty territory, where the members of Ojibwe bands retain the rights to hunt, fish, harvest wild rice, conduct religious ceremonies,³ and travel. Wild rice lies at the core of Ojibwe identity and culture — because of its critical nature, wild rice harvesting is explicitly defined as a right in the treaties of several bands of Ojibwe with the U.S. government. Line 3 could send up to nearly one million barrels of tar sands per day through dozens of the richest wild rice beds in the world on its way through the Mississippi River headwaters to the Great Lakes. The inherent risks of the Line 3 pipeline

¹ ["Line 3 Replacement Program,"](#) Enbridge, accessed 5 October 2018.

² Clark Williams-Derry, ["How Enbridge's Bankers Fund a Tar Sands Pipeline,"](#) Sightline Institute, September 2018.

³ ["Treaty Rights and Oil Pipelines: What You Need to Know,"](#) Honor the Earth, accessed October 2018.

project are in direct conflict with the treaty rights of the Ojibwe peoples. Harm to the wild rice beds of the Ojibwe people threatens irrevocable and devastating cultural impacts.

As sovereign nations, and under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, Ojibwe nations have the **right to reject any activity that impacts their territory which has not been subject to their Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The Mille Lacs, Red Lake and White Earth Nations have not given their Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the Line 3 pipeline**, as demonstrated by their legal petition⁴ challenging the adequacy of the Public Utility Commission's approval of the Environmental Impact Statement. By continuing to provide credit to Enbridge, **Crédit Agricole is financing a client that is directly violating Indigenous rights.**

Remarkably, the renewal of the US \$1.48 billion line of credit to Enbridge will take place on the very same day as the annual meeting of the Equator Principles Association, gathering in Washington DC. During this meeting, Free, Prior and Informed Consent will be a priority topic on the agenda, responding to a demand formulated in May 2017 by Crédit Agricole and nine other European banks⁵ for an application of the same environmental and social standards in Designated and non-Designated Countries. After the Dakota Access Pipeline scandal and the numerous human rights violations documented during construction of the pipeline, your bank publicly stated⁶ that "in order to reduce the risk of facing similar situations in the future, Crédit Agricole made two requests to the Equator Principles Association concerning the obligation to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed consent of affected indigenous communities in all countries".

On October 16, you will have two options: refuse to renew this credit facility to Enbridge, and make your actions consistent with your words and request to the Equator Principles Association. Or renew your financial support to the Canadian company, and appear on the international stage as a bank which tramples on Indigenous rights and contributes to empty rhetoric for the Equator Principles platform.

As you are no doubt aware, Indigenous people and allied organizations have stalled all major tar sands pipelines proposed in recent years through building mass popular opposition, direct actions and legal challenges. The strong local and international opposition against Line 3 similarly means high reputational risks for banks indirectly backing the project.

Line 3 not only disregards Indigenous rights, it also facilitates the long-term growth of extraction of tar sands oil despite the onset of climate change. It is unconscionable to promote the growth of this highly carbon-intensive and environmentally destructive fuel at a time when meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement requires a halt to all fossil fuel expansion followed by a rapid phase-out and a just transition to a clean and efficient energy sector.

⁴ "[PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI](#)," Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, and White Earth Band of Ojibwe, 8 August 2018.

⁵ "[Letter to The Equator Principles Association](#)," Crédit Agricole et al., 22 May 2017.

⁶ "[Précisions sur le projet Dakota Access Pipeline \(DAPL\) aux États-Unis](#)," Crédit Agricole, March 2017.

Your bank has an important opportunity to show that you are serious about complying with your stated commitment to addressing climate change and complying with the right to FPIC, by stepping away from renewing the over \$2.1 billion in credit for Enbridge set to expire by the end of the year. We call upon Cr dit Agricole to decline to participate in the Enbridge credit renewal, and instead to publicly commit to securing Indigenous peoples' right to FPIC in all your corporate lending practices.

Sincerely,

Honor the Earth, Tara Houska (Couchiching First Nation)

Indigenous Environmental Network, Dallas Goldtooth (Mdewakanton Dakota and Dine)

Mazaska Talks & Last Real Indians, Matt Remle (Hunkpapa Lakota)

Native Organizers Alliance, Judith Leblanc (Caddo Nation)

Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion, Kevin Hart, Manitoba Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

MN350, Kevin Whelan

Power Shift Network, Lydia Avila

80 Feet Is Enough!, Keith Merkel

Wisconsin Safe Energy Alliance, Elizabeth Ward

Bronx Climate Justice North, Jennifer Scarlott

Climate Change Awareness and Action, Yvonne Chu

Climate First!, Ted Conwell

Climate Justice Committee of CNY Solidarity Coalition & Shaleshock CNY, Katherine Burns

CSIA-Nitassinan, Edith Patrouilleau

Food and Water Watch, Andrea Chu

Fossil Free California, Deborah Silvey

Foundation "Development YES - Open-Pit Mines NO" & Fundacja "Rozwój TAK - Odkrywki NIE", Kuba Gogolewski

Friends of the Earth France, Lorette Philippot

Greenpeace USA, Diana Best

Harford County Climate Action, Pamela Dehmer

Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution, Ben Manski

Oil Change International, Hannah McKinnon

Olympic Climate Action, Ed Chadd

Rainforest Action Network, Patrick McCully

Save Our Illinois Land, Deni Mathews

Seeding Sovereignty, Janet MacGillivray, Esq.

Sierra Club, Kelly Martin

West Coast Environmental Law Association, Eugene Kung

Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), Osprey Orielle Lake

350.org, Brett Fleishman

350 Seattle, Alec Connon

350PDX, Anaïs Tuepker and Sandy Polishuk

350 Colorado, Micah Parkin

350 Atlanta, Tom Thrasher

350 Austin, Gil Starkey

350 Bay Area, Laura Neish

350 Brooklyn, Sara Gronim

350 Conejo/San Fernando Valley, Alan Weiner

350 Corvallis, Trish Weber

350 DC, Collin Rees

350 Eastside, Lin Hagerdorn

350 Eugene, Sandra Clark

350 Indiana, Silvia Leahu-Aluas and Robin Mohr

350Kishwaukee, Dave Davis

350 Marin, Patrick Costello

350 Montgomery County, Jeffrey Weisner

350 New Hampshire, Lila Kohrman-Glaser

350 Oregon Central Coast, Bill Kucha

350 Silicon Valley, Stew Plock

350 South Florida, Salome Garcia

350 Southwest Idaho, Annie Ford

350 Spokane, Rebecca K. MacMullan

350 Tacoma, Dan Villa

350 Vermont, Maeve McBride

350 Washington County, Debby Garman

350 Wenatchee, Jeanne Poirer

Climate Action RI 350, Kendra Anderson

Chico 350, Mark Kay Benson

Elgin Green Groups 350.org, Sandy Kaptain