Dear Chair and Members of the General Issues Committee:

**Re: Enbridge Inc. Pipeline Flow Reversal Project**

The 650-member Hamilton Naturalists’ Club is an incorporated, non-profit society dedicated to the study, education and conservation of the plant and animal life of the Greater Hamilton region. The Club is actively involved in nature reserve management and the rehabilitation of plant and animal habitats. All of our publications and projects, and nature reserve activity, are detailed on our website, [www.hamiltonnature.org](http://www.hamiltonnature.org)

The purpose of this letter is to express our concern about the potential impact of plans by Enbridge Inc. to reverse the flows of its Line 9 pipeline from Hamilton to Sarnia (with the Village of Westover in Flamborough being the local hub) so it can carry diluted oilsands bitumen toward the east coast.

This pipeline goes through the Beverly Swamp, a provincially significant wetland forming the headwaters of Spencer Creek that empties into Cootes Paradise Marsh and Hamilton Harbour. One of our main concerns is the risk of an oil spill that could potentially have devastating effects on watercourses, wetlands, farmland, the community, wildlife and natural habitat.

In late July, the National Energy Board (NEB) approved the reversal of the flow, subject to 15 conditions mainly having to do with pipeline integrity. Reports indicate the approved application covers light and medium crude, and Enbridge must file an additional application if it wants to ship oilsands crude from Sarnia to Hamilton. If and when the project proceeds, we urge the City of Hamilton to be vigilant in ensuring that all parties meet the required conditions, and that the NEB is diligent in its task of ensuring compliance.

Hamilton Naturalists’ Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, appreciation and conservation of our wild plants and animals. All work is freely done by Directors, Officers and Members.
The necessity of proper oversight is reinforced by the fact that the federal government cancelled a previously required environmental assessment of the proposal, a casualty of the complete rewrite of federal environmental law in the Harper government’s omnibus bill.

Enbridge’s environmental track record has been under increasing scrutiny, as exemplified in particular by the massive spill of an estimated 3 million litres of oil from a ruptured pipeline into more than 60 kilometres of Michigan’s Kalamazoo River system in July, 2010. The difficulties associated with this spill continue. On Oct. 3, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered Enbridge to conduct additional cleanup and restoration work.

Thank you for your attention and interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael Fischer
President
Hamilton Naturalists’ Club
*Protecting Nature Since 1919*