# LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
## 7500 ODAWA CIRCLE, HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

## TRIBAL COUNCIL TRAVEL REPORT NARRATIVE

**From:** Marcella Reyes, Tribal Council Treasurer

**Date:** 11-15-2013

On November 11th, 2013 I had the opportunity to attend a presentation in Ann Arbor, MI where Winona LaDuke was the Keynote Speaker. The presentation was entitled "Building a Greener Economy: Indigenous Strategies for a Sustainable Future". The facts & information that she shared were eye-opening.

Native American communities have the potential to generate up to one half of present US electrical consumption through producing power from the wind. LaDuke spoke about renewable energy and the untapped potential to harness this resource on tribally owned lands. Reducing our dependence on foreign oil would in turn reduce the need for military intervention in oil rich countries and represents the potential for ecological sustainability.

The Four Corner Power Plant in the Navajo nation produces enough power from wind turbines to run the entire area however, more than 80% of Navajo citizens living on the reservation live without electricity.

The countries of Denmark & Germany have successful renewable energy programs that are both community & locally owned and are considered energy experts globally.

LaDuke also spoke in length about Enbridge pipelines and the threat they pose to the land and drinking water. Enbridge has a 60 year old pipeline that runs below the Straits of Mackinaw that is a disaster waiting to happen. The Mackinaw line pumps in excess of 20 million gallons of crude oil and natural gas fluids through two twenty-inch pipes every day and the nearest of Enbridge's oil-spill response teams is stationed three hours from the Straits.

The Mackinaw line, which is part of the Lakehead Pipeline System – a system which has seen eighty spills since 2001 - has already leaked but in other locations. Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) has ordered Enbridge to repair this pipeline, citing a history of

failure "throughout all parts of the Lakehead system." Enbridge has refused to release information regarding the integrity of the line, and has bypassed environmental permitting required for recent changes in operation, which has seen the transportation of tar sands diluted bitumen, or "dibit". Dilbit is more corrosive to pipelines, causing leaks at seventeen times the rate of regular crude oil, and a submerged tar sands oil spill could not be properly cleaned up due to its weight and contents.

In 2013 the National Wildlife Foundation conducted a diving expedition to obtain footage of the line as it passes under the Straits and the results are appalling. (Search YouTube: "Sunken Hazard")

Tribal governments and federal governments have a trust responsibility over the Great Lakes, the water and the tribal citizens of the Great Lakes region. The time to act is now.

What can we do? We can pressure Governor Rick Snyder to consult with CORA, and require Enbridge to immediately remove the portion of the line that crosses the Strait.