

NEWS ADVISORY

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WHAT: Biggest Anti Tar Sands Protest in Northeast

WHEN: Sat. Jan 26, March 12:30-1:00, Rally 1-2:00

WHERE: Portland, Maine

- **March:** From Monument Square (on Congress Street) past Portland City Hall, down Exchange Street and via Commercial Street to the State Pier.
- **Rally:** Maine State Pier (Pier beyond Casco Bay Ferry Terminal)

WHO: Great visuals!

12:30-1:00 Hundreds of people from across Maine, from every New England state, and from Canada will be carrying signs and marching from Monument Square to Maine State Pier

1:00-2:00 Speakers at the rally on Maine State Pier, against the backdrop of oil tanks and tankers, include:

- Portland Mayor Michael Brennan- Portland City Council members are considering a measure that would ensure the city does not use fuel made from tar sands oil in its vehicles or buildings.
- Unity College President Stephen Mulkey- Unity College was the first college in the nation to divest its endowment from fossil fuels.
- A resident of Casco, the first Maine town to vote against the pipeline at its town meeting.
- Burlington City Councilor Maxwell Tracy- Where a comprehensive anti-tar sands/pipeline resolution was recently passed.
- Other citizens, land trust leaders, etc. from region threatened by possible tar sands pipeline

WHY: The rally and march is being held to protest an emerging proposal to send dirty tar sands oil through the 236-mile long, 62-year-old Exxon/Enbridge pipeline across Canada, Maine and New England.

The history of disastrous tar sands pipeline spills and escalating weather disasters from fossil fuel driven climate change, make the flow of tar sands oil especially risky.

The rally will demonstrate a wall of opposition to this risky proposal and call on federal officials to ensure there is a full environmental review of this project—because the threats are too great for the environment and economy of Maine, New England, Canada and the Earth.

Specifically, the rally will call on officials and the State Department to require a Presidential Permit application and full environmental review **before** the company could start to send tar sands through the pipeline.

Unless the federal government decides to require it, there may not be a permit application or adequate environmental review in store for this line reversal and change of product to tar sands oil.

Maine is threatened by a ExxonMobil/Enbridge tar sand pipeline that could run through Ontario, Quebec, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine to Portland Harbor. In Maine, the pipeline passes next to Sebago Lake, the drinking water supply for more than 15% of Mainers, crosses the Androscoggin and Crooked Rivers, and ends at Casco Bay, where it could endanger fishing and lobster industries.