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For immediate release

Contact: Peter Anderson, anderson@recycleworlds.net, (608) 231-1100

The Wisconsin Supreme Court hears oral argument in *Enbridge v. Dane County*

Groundbreaking case would require Enbridge to purchase spill clean-up insurance

The Wisconsin Supreme Court is hearing oral argument in the case of *Enbridge v. Dane Co.* at 1:30 p.m. on March 26. This is the culmination of a long battle that began with Dane County standing up to the behemoth pipeline company.

The saga began in 2014 when Enbridge applied for a permit to build a pumping station in Dane County in order to *triple* the amount of oil flowing through its Line 61 pipeline. This expansion was a huge concern for residents across Dane County and the state because it's almost unprecedented for a tar sands oil pipeline to flow at such high pressure and carry such an enormous volume of oil.

Given heightened concerns about the impact of a potential spill on the community ([as demonstrated by the Kalamazoo Spill in 2010](#)), the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee required Enbridge to purchase additional insurance to ensure that if there were a spill, Dane County residents wouldn't be on the hook for the clean-up costs.

[An 11th-hour provision inserted in the 2015–17 state budget \(Wis. Stat. § 59.70\(25\)\)](#) tried to block Dane County from requiring insurance. Enbridge sued the county, demanding the insurance requirement be withdrawn. [Seven landowners from the impacted region also filed suit](#), asserting that even if the budget provision barred the county from enforcing the insurance requirement, it did not similarly bar enforcement by affected landowners. [A long court battle ensued.](#)

In January 2018, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals agreed to hear oral argument in the case, and on May 24, in a **huge victory**, the court agreed with the landowners and the county that they have a right to know they will be protected if a spill occurs. Enbridge appealed the decision, and last fall the Wisconsin Supreme Court agreed to take up the issue.

Oral argument will be held before the Supreme Court on **March 26 at 1:30 p.m.**

WHO: Enbridge, Dane County, and 350 Madison

WHAT: Oral argument in *Enbridge v. Dane County*

WHEN: March 26 at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Supreme Court Hearing Room, 2nd floor, East Wing of the Capitol

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350 Madison Climate Action Team is the local branch of 350.org, an international grassroots organization that is mobilizing a global climate movement. 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO2 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. We have well exceeded that limit. Learn more:

<http://350madison.org/>