



**Madison Chapter**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Lawyers Guild Madison Chapter

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**Water Protectors Face Misdemeanor Charges for 2017 Arrests on Enbridge Line 3 in Superior Wisconsin on August 13**

Two of over a dozen people arrested at construction sites on Enbridge's Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Wisconsin will be tried Monday, August 13 in Douglas County Circuit Court. Alexander Good Cane Milk and Kyla Hassig were arrested August 29 near Superior Wisconsin. Both came to Wisconsin to express opposition to Line 3, which carries Canadian tar sands oil from Alberta to Superior, passing through Minnesota where the construction has not yet been permitted.

Good Cane Milk, who is Yankton Dakota and also of Ojibwe ancestry, and Hassig came at the invitation of local Ojibwe activists who sought help in preventing the destruction of the water, wild rice and other resources of their treaty territory on which they and others depend. At the April 17 trial of three people arrested near Line 3 in Wisconsin in November, Onzie Snowdon of the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe testified that his people have a responsibility to protect their water, the wild rice and the land for the seventh generation according to Ojibwe prophecy. "We're not just doing it for us, but for you too," Snowdon told the jury.

Line 3 now passes through the Leech Lake and Fond du Lac reservations in Minnesota before reaching Wisconsin. Much of the route passes through "ceded territory" on which indigenous Ojibwe/Chippewa retain rights to hunt, fish and gather as they did for centuries. Many were inspired by the pipeline resistance to Dakota Access at the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota in 2016-17.

The pipeline resisters will be represented by attorneys John Bachman of Eau Claire and Ralph Hurvitz of Seattle WA. The attorneys have asserted that their clients acted to prevent harm to the environment of the Superior and other areas surrounding the pipeline. The Husky Oil refinery in Superior exploded and caught fire April 26, resulting in the evacuation of several schools and thousands of citizens in Superior.