RESOLUTION –*1/30/2013*

A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF LOCAL CITIZENS, WATERBODIES AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES IN RELATION TO THE FUTURE TRANSPORT OF HEAVY OIL SANDS, A.K.A. DILUTED BITUMEN, THROUGH RAYMOND, MAINE

WHEREAS Raymond, Maine has previously supported local, state and/or federal actions to safeguard human health, ensure the safety of citizens, and to protect the environment, including but not limited to town ordinances and has made significant investments in watershed protection in the areas draining into Panther Pond and other water bodies within the town; and

WHEREAS, Raymond and the public benefits immensely from the existing lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds, including the Crooked River and Panther Pond, as well as other waters that define the Sebago Lakes Region and that have for generations provided recreation for residents and tourists alike, and which enhance property values and generate substantial economic activity that sustains jobs and local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Raymond Comprehensive Plan (2004) asserted that the local economy depends on the conservation of water and natural resources, including soils, water resources, wetlands, floodplains, wildlife habitat, in addition to the need to protect drinking water and public drinking water supplies, predominantly derived from groundwater in Raymond, in addition to Sebago Lake—the public water supply for approximately 200,000 residents of Greater Portland —which is managed by the Portland Water District.

WHEREAS, a pumping station along the Portland-Montreal Pipe Line is located in Raymond on Route 121, near Panther Pond, which was noted for being one of 13 lakes and ponds in Maine with an "outstanding" rating for cultural features;

WHEREAS, the oil industry appears to plan to use an aging oil pipeline, built in 1950, to bring Canadian heavy oil sands also known as diluted bitumen through the Lakes Region to Casco Bay for export, through the Town of Raymond via said pumping station; and

WHEREAS, pipelines carrying heavy oil sands, diluted bitumen and related oil sands products have a greater likelihood of leaks and spills because of the higher temperatures and pressures involved in pumping the viscous substance through pipelines and specifically at pumping stations, where pressure is increased; and

WHEREAS, heavy oil sands-related spills are more dangerous and more difficult to clean up than conventional oil spills, due to 1) the chemical composition, which includes Benzene, a known carcinogen, and 2) the viscosity of oil sands, causing some of the material to sink and be absorbed into the sediment, creating long-term adverse effects to aquatic habitat;

WHEREAS, **the State of Maine**, in connection with state and federal agencies, has begun to prepare its strategy for oil sands clean-up with respect to oil spill remediation;

WHEREAS, the transport of heavy oil sands and related oil sands products through Oxford and Cumberland counties in the state of Maine could pose unreasonable risks to the health, safety, natural resources, property and/or economic welfare of persons living in **Raymond, Maine;**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that through the adoption of this resolution, the Town of Raymond expresses serious concern regarding the transport of heavy oil sands (also known as diluted bitumen, Cold Lake crude, and oil sands) through Maine, and remains deeply concerned about the risks that such transport of heavy oil sands may create in relation to public health and safety, property values, and the natural resources upon which the community depends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Town of Raymond, Maine** call upon the federal government to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of heavy oil sands, diluted bitumen and related pipeline proposals, including a complete evaluation of the health and safety impacts of potential oil sands spills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Town of Raymond** support the creation of clear Federal and State guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of various types of fuel so that local governments, citizens, and first responders can prepare for and prevent adverse impacts from risks associated with oil spills of this nature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Town of Raymond** will comply with State statutes, rules, regulations and guidance that instruct on prevention and protection from oil spills of any kind, as well as state-recommended guidance or regulations related to oil spill prevention, clean-up and countermeasures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the **Town of Raymond** transmit a copy of this resolution to the Maine Congressional delegation, President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of State and CEO of Portland Pipe Line Corporation.

PASSED by the **<Selectboard/Council>** this____ day of _____, 2013.

<Chair or Other Authorized Selectboard Member/Council President>

APPROVED by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

<Mayor (for municipalities with city councils)>

ATTEST:

<Finance Director or other authorized representative>

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

<Authorized Legal Representative/Office of the City Attorney>