

PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES

The Great Lakes are essential to Michigan. So is safe, reliable energy. Agreements with Enbridge Energy to build a utility tunnel deep in the bedrock will essentially eliminate the risk of an oil spill at the Straits, provide energy security, and better connect our peninsulas. Taxpayers won't have to pay to construct or operate the tunnel.

Line 5 in Michigan will be safer while it continues to deliver fuels that heat Michigan homes and power our economic growth.

Michigan Benefits from Line 5



Michigan uses more propane than any other state in the country



Line 5 provides the majority of propane to Upper Peninsula households and businesses. The state also imports propane into the Lower Peninsula from Canada and this depends on Line 5.

Michigan's own crude oil is transported on Line 5



Michigan's homegrown oil and gas companies, that provide revenues for state parks and public lands, depend on Line 5 to move their product to market. **More than 60 percent of Michigan's own crude oil is transported on Line 5.**

Line 5 supplies crude oil to the regional energy market through refineries in Detroit, Toledo and Sarnia.

Michigan needs reliable energy

Supply disruptions in the 2013-2014 winter led to an average 86 percent spike in propane costs for families. Line 5 also is one of the largest customers for U.P. electric utilities. If Line 5 shuts down, electric costs could rise for many U.P. customers.

Safety improvements along Line 5

The historic agreement requires major safety enhancements along the entire length of the pipeline crossing the state and the permanent shut down of the current segment that crosses the Straits of Mackinac.

Reliable energy

The majority of Michigan domestic oil and gas producers depend on Line 5 to move their products. Michigan is the number one user of propane in the United States.

Permanent shut-down and replacement of Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac

If the state were to attempt to completely shut down Line 5 without an agreement, a long court battle would result, taking years to litigate with no certain outcome. Michigan needs assurance that Line 5 will be out of the Straits and that the remaining portions of Line 5 will be safer. Agreements between the state and Enbridge will do that.

Pipelines are critical to powering northern Michigan

The current line supplies a significant portion of propane to the Upper Peninsula and portions of the Lower Peninsula. Northern Michigan is critically dependent on a fully functioning pipeline to heat homes, run businesses and teach students.

Protecting the environment

Industry and environmentalists agree that pipelines are safer than trucking or rail for petroleum products. Approximately 70 percent of the crude oil and refined petroleum products shipped in the United States travel by pipeline. So as long as Michigan needs propane and gasoline, it will need pipelines to protect our environment while delivering petroleum products here. This historic agreement will result in eliminating nearly every risk of an oil leak in the Straits and provide added protections to the Great Lakes.

Creating Jobs

The tunnel project will create a major, half-a-billion dollar infrastructure project in Northern Michigan, providing good-paying jobs for members of the skilled trades and other workers.

Mackinac Bridge Authority

The Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) has decades of experience and expertise in managing a significant and iconic piece of Michigan infrastructure, the Mackinac Bridge, and has a solid record of success and bipartisan action. We need this tunnel to be built right, and there is no better group to make sure that happens.

SB 1197

As part of this process, it is important for the Legislature to pass SB 1197 (Casperson) to provide clear direction in statute as to the MBA's role. The legislation would reinforce points of the agreement between the state and Enbridge by protecting the current Mackinac Bridge revenues solely for use on the bridge and reassuring the public that no one's property will be taken to build this tunnel.

The tunnel would be owned by the Mackinac Bridge Authority, which would have authority over its operations and maintenance and ensure other utilities like broadband would be able to use the tunnel as well. Enbridge would lease space in the tunnel from the MBA and pay for all of the tunnel's operational costs.