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The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer
Governor
George W. Romney Building
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

On behalf of the thousands of Michigan residents we represent, we urge you to provide the leadership necessary to reach a compromise that will ensure the continued operation and long-term safety of the Line 5 oil pipeline. Regardless of where they live in our great state, a shutdown of this line would directly and negatively impact almost every Michigander.

As you are likely aware, Michigan consumes more propane for residential purposes than any other state in the union. Our constituents use this propane to heat their homes and cook their food. And more than half of it comes through Line 5. It is estimated that replacing the propane lost by closing the line would require an additional 30,000 truckloads and 9,600 rail cars annually.

But closing Line 5 wouldn't just harm those Michiganders who rely on propane. An independent study by Michigan Tech researchers found that refineries in Detroit and Toledo would be forced to pay higher prices for crude oil, which they would pass on to Michigan drivers in the form of higher gas prices. Airports in Detroit and Grand Rapids that depend on jet fuel from local refineries would also see price increases that would be passed on to their passengers through higher fares.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there are thousands of jobs at risk should you decide to close Line 5 and abandon the plan to build a protective tunnel. More than 25,000 (mostly union) employees service the line, and work in the refineries and industrial sites it supplies. And of course, the tunnel project itself would create thousands more new, high-paying jobs.

On behalf of the hardworking Michigan families we all serve, we ask that you recognize and acknowledge the critical importance of keeping Line 5 operational while we work to ensure its long-term safety by constructing the protective tunnel. Your leadership is critical in keeping propane affordable and accessible for Michiganders come winter, to avoid a significant increase in gas prices, and to keep thousands of our fellow residents working good-paying jobs.

Sincerely,

Sen. Mike Shirkey
16th District

Sen. Wayne Schmidt
37th District

Sen. Ed McBroom
38th District