



**Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area**  
**community foundation**

January 30, 2015

The Honorable Rick Snyder  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

The aging Enbridge pipeline, line 5, running under the Straits of Mackinac to the "Tip of the Mitt" poses great concern to us. A failure of any kind to that pipeline would cause disastrous consequences to the environment, public health, tourism and economy. The financial hardship borne by the Emmet County nonprofit sector in the event of an oil spill in the Straits should not be overlooked.

The nonprofit sector plays a key role in establishing and supporting a strong quality of life in northern Michigan. Time and again the sector has shown its resilience and proven its value during difficult economic times for the State. But the short-term and long-term economic strain of an oil spill disaster in the Great Lakes and along the shores of Emmet County would make it difficult for many of our nonprofit partners to endure.

Recent stories of 'pinhole' leaks in line 5 make it clear that the State of Michigan and the Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force cannot afford to delay action. As the Governor of the State of Michigan, you have the authority to guarantee that Enbridge is in full compliance with the State's 1953 Easement. The state has a Public Trust responsibility under the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act. Requiring permits under that Act provides a process that would give the State the best opportunity to exercise its expertise to ensure the pipeline poses no significant threats to public or private interests.

We urge you to act quickly to address this issue.

Very sincerely,

David L. Jones  
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Bill Schuette, Michigan Attorney General  
Mr. Dan Wyant, Director of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

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