

RESOLUTION 118-2019

Grand Traverse County Resolution in Support of Line 5 Tunnel

WHEREAS, Enbridge's Line 5, has been operating safely and reliably in the Straits of Mackinaw for more than 66 years; and,

WHEREAS, Enbridge's Line 5, a light crude and natural gas liquids pipeline, helps to safely meet Michigan's energy needs by fulfilling more than half of the propane needs of the state; and,

WHEREAS, the products delivered to regional refineries provide jobs and ultimately fuel our lives; and,

WHEREAS, multiple and extensive inspections and safety tests over the last several years have confirmed the integrity of Line 5 at the Straits of Mackinac as fit for service.

WHEREAS, Consequences to energy supply, local producers, regional airports and refineries, jobs, local economies and the pocketbook of Michiganders across the entire state are too great for Line 5 to be shut down before the tunnel replacement can be completed;

WHEREAS, within Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties BATA (Bay Area Transportation Authority) busses run clean emission free propane, a fuel which is transported through Line 5, to offer vehicle life cycle greenhouse (GHG) emissions benefits over conventional fuels.

WHEREAS, Issues have been raised by several concerned parties regarding the possibility and impact of a breach of Line 5 into the Straits of Mackinac. These concerns have resulted In the State of Michigan and Enbridge negotiating an "agreement" for a 5 year \$500 million project, to construct a tunnel 100 feet below bedrock to encase Line 5, the entire length of the Straits, in one-foot-thick concrete walls in order to mitigate chances of any leaks of product into the Great Lakes.

WHEREAS, the recently elected Michigan Attorney General, Dana Nessel has subsequently opposed the negotiated "agreement" and filed a lawsuit in Ingham County Circuit Court to close down Line 5 immediately effectively canceling all efforts to begin construction of the tunnel; and,

WHEREAS, this action may very well provide unintended consequents for all parties as the litigation to close down Line 5 may take years to be resolved in the courts with no assurance of the outcome and;

WHEREAS, the time to resolve the litigation may simply result in the delay of the start of the construction of the tunnel thereby leaving the existing Line 5 in place unnecessarily for several additional years.

WHEREAS, Enbridge has demonstrated a willingness to work with the state to both protect the Great Lakes and ensure the continued safe delivery of energy we all rely on.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners hereby joins with Dickinson County in extending its support for Enbridge's proposed tunnel replacement project and urges the State of Michigan to work with Enbridge to complete the tunnel project as quickly as possible and not disrupt Line 5 service before the tunnel can be completed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Grand Traverse County sends this resolution to all counties of Michigan as an invitation to join in expressing support for increasing the safety of our current energy infrastructure as our society simultaneously seeks energy efficiencies and energy alternatives that will continue to reduce negative impacts and risks to our environment.

APPROVED: August 21, 2019