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Union Members, Business Leaders Travel to Lansing to Urge Policymakers: Keep Line 5 Open, Build the Great Lakes Tunnel

Workers, Leaders Demonstrate at Capitol, Testify in state House and Senate Committees – Urge State to Protect the Great Lakes, Michigan Jobs

Lansing, Mich – Leaders of the Great Lakes. Michigan Jobs. Coalition and others today traveled to Lansing and spoke out statewide to urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer, regulators at the Department of Natural Resources, and policymakers to keep Line 5 open, and to move forward with construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel.

Tuesday's day of action in support of Line 5 includes:

- **Testimony in the House Transportation Committee** from *PBF Refinery and the Michigan Oil and Gas Association* on the impact a shutdown of Line 5 would have on fuel costs and transportation;
- **Testimony in the Senate Energy Committee** from the *Michigan Chamber of Commerce, United Steelworkers, the Michigan Pipe Trades, and PBF Refinery* on the impact a closure would have on workers and businesses in Michigan and across the Midwest;
- **A demonstration at the state Capital** by union members highlighting job losses that would result from a shutdown of Line 5; **and more.**

"Shutting down Line 5 would be a disaster for Michigan and for workers across the region," said **Geno Alessandrini, Sr., Business Manager with LiUNA Michigan**. "The Michigan labor unions that represent these workers strongly back the continued operation of Line 5 and construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel."

The fuel delivered by [Line 5 is used to make medicine, hand sanitizer](#), clothing, furniture, asphalt to fix the roads, fuels Michiganders rely on like gas for their cars, propane for their homes, diesel for the trucks that move Michigan businesses' products across the state, and much more.

"The Michigan Chamber supports the safe and effective regulation of pipelines throughout our state to protect our Great Lakes resources, and the continued operation of Line 5," said **Mike Alaimo, Director of Environmental and Energy Affairs for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce**. "Michigan businesses and families

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depend on Line 5. It creates and supports tens-of-thousands of jobs, it powers industry and our homes, and it keeps energy at the pump affordable. We're grateful Line 5 remains open, and look forward to construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel."

Line 5 supports tens-of-thousands of high-skill, high-paying jobs in Michigan's manufacturing, chemistry, service, transportation, and energy industries, including small and independent business jobs. Construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel – an energy infrastructure project that will take an estimated 2 million man-hours to complete – would further protect those critical jobs, and create new ones.

Said Mark Griffin, President of the Michigan Petroleum Association and Michigan Association of Convenience Stores: "Line 5 delivers the fuel we count on every day at the gas pump and on the job. It's a safe pipeline, and it'll be even safer once a portion gets moved into the Great Lakes Tunnel. It is time we all move beyond COVID-19 and the Tunnel is the kind of positive infrastructure project that'll make that possible. Shutting down Line 5 would only do more damage."

Said Chris Ziegler with the American Petroleum Institute: "Line 5 has been safely operating for more than 60 years, providing Michigan families and businesses with access to the affordable, reliable energy they need. Shutting down this vital energy conduit would needlessly deny Michiganders the economic, environmental and energy security benefits this pipeline provides and would be a monumental step in the wrong direction. We urge Governor Whitmer to recognize how much Line 5 benefits the daily lives of the people of Michigan, as well as the work that Enbridge has done to ensure its continued safe and environmentally responsible operation."

In addition to public hearings, union members are lining the grounds of the state Capitol today with empty hard hats, representing the skilled tradespeople whose jobs are on the line in the middle of a global pandemic.

Leading Michigan voices from labor, business and industry have formed the Great Lakes Michigan Jobs coalition. They work together, encouraging state and federal officials and agencies currently reviewing permit applications – and all Michiganders – to embrace the Tunnel project, and the lakes and jobs it protects.

Majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independents support construction of the Tunnel, believe it's the best solution for Line 5, and want the state to move forward immediately with permitting for the project, according to survey results.

"Line 5 delivers the energy products that makes the products Michigan families, patients, and motorists depend on every day," **said John Dulmes, Executive Director of the Michigan Chemistry Council.** "It creates and supports tens of thousands of Michigan jobs. Our state needs Line 5, we're glad it's still operating safely, and we're excited about construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel."

To learn more about the coalition and the Great Lakes Tunnel project, visit GreatLakesMichiganJobs.com.

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