



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Labor Unions, Michigan Workers Back Continued Operation of Line 5, Building the Great Lakes Tunnel

Lansing, Mich – Michigan labor today is strongly urging state regulators to back Line 5, to keep the pipeline open, and to build the Great Lakes Tunnel.

Workers this week traveled to Lansing to testify about their support for Line 5, and to hold a demonstration highlighting Line 5's importance to the region's jobs and economy.

"Building the Great Lakes Tunnel is a clear solution that makes a safe Line 5 even safer," said **Brent Pilarski, a union laborer, and Business Manager for Local 1098 in Bay City**. "Line 5 secures Michigan's energy future, and it creates Michigan jobs. It creates tax revenue that funds our police, firefighters, and schools. It delivers steady, secure, low-cost energy to our homes. Protect the Great Lakes and Michigan's energy supply by keeping Line 5 open and building the Tunnel."

Labor unions and their members are key leaders of the Great Lakes Michigan Jobs coalition. Union leaders in the coalition include:

- LiUNA Michigan (Michigan Laborers);
- Operating Engineers 324,
- The Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council; and
- The Michigan Pipe Trades Association

Line 5 is also strongly backed by the United Steelworkers.

"Keep Line 5 open," said **Josh Fruik, a Michigan Laborer who spent nearly 7 years working on the pipeline**. "I grew up in the Upper Peninsula, and I built my career keeping pipelines safe. Workers like me rely on Line 5 for a paycheck, and for the fuel we need to power our jobs. Line 5 is the safest way to transport that fuel. Keep it open and build the Great Lakes Tunnel."

Said **Mike Glanville, a union foreman in Iron Mountain**: "Line 5 is safe – I've seen it myself. I've seen the data. I've made a career out of preventative maintenance on pipelines, and I know how seriously Enbridge takes Line 5 safety."

(MORE)

Leaders of the Great Lakes. Michigan Jobs. Coalition and others yesterday 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.

“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.

“Line 5 needs to keep rolling,” said **Rob Mead, a union steamfitter with UA Local 85 in Saginaw**. “Line 5 brings fuel and jobs to Michigan. Shutting down Line 5 means taking away Michigan jobs and sending them somewhere else. Line 5 is safe. The safety standards surrounding it are second-to-none. We’ve got a chance to make it even safer by building 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.

Union members yesterday in Lansing lined the grounds of the state Capitol with empty hard hats, demonstrating to regulators and policymakers the skilled tradespeople whose jobs are on the line in the middle of a global pandemic.

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

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

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