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Labor, Business Leaders Echo Support for Line 5 and the Great Lakes Tunnel following Senate Hearing

Lansing, Mich – Leaders of the Great Lakes. Michigan Jobs. Coalition today echoed support for the continued operation of Line 5 and the construction of the Great Lakes Tunnel, following a Senate Energy and Technology Committee hearing on the issue.

The hearing featured testimony from the Michigan Propane Gas Association, a steering committee member of the GLMJ coalition, and others. Additional Great Lakes Michigan Jobs coalition leaders voiced their support for Line 5:

Said Caroline Liethen, Director of Environmental & Regulatory Policy for the Michigan Manufacturers Association: “Michigan’s manufacturing industry relies on Line 5 and the jobs it provides. We need the Great Lakes Tunnel built and Line 5 to continue operating to protect these jobs. Line 5 continues to be a safe and affordable source of energy and building the tunnel will strengthen Michigan’s energy infrastructure and boost our economy. It’s time to keep the Tunnel project moving forward and build the tunnel.”

Said Geno Alessandrini, Sr., Business Manager for the Michigan Laborers District Council: “Michigan workers continue to back the Great Lakes Tunnel because it’s the commonsense solution our state needs. Protecting our Great Lakes, our jobs and our energy supply well into the future is a win for all of Michigan.”

Said Mike Alaimo, Director of Environmental and Energy Affairs for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce: “The Michigan Chamber supports the safe and effective regulation of pipelines throughout our state to protect our Great Lakes resources. Hard working Michigan families cannot afford the closure of Line 5. For these reasons we support the Great Lakes Tunnel which will protect and create tens of thousands of jobs and put forth a pragmatic and concrete solution to Michigan’s energy needs.”

Said Jason Geer, President and CEO of the Michigan Oil and Gas Association: “Without Line 5, our members will be forced to place their oil and gas in tanker trucks and rail cars, which increases the danger to the environment and unnecessarily increases greenhouse gas emissions. Our members want the safest mode of transportation for their product and Line 5 continues to offer that and the Great Lakes Tunnel will be even safer. The Great Lakes Tunnel project continues to be the most common sense solution to protecting the Great Lakes and continuing the safe transportation of the oil, gas, and propane products Michigan needs.”

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Said Mark Griffin, President of the Michigan Petroleum Association and Michigan Association of Convenience Stores: “We need big investments in our state’s future and that’s why we need Line 5 and the Great Lakes Tunnel. The Tunnel means new jobs as well as affordable, reliable energy for generations to come. It just makes sense for Michigan and the project should be advanced quickly.”

Said John Dulmes, Executive Director of the Michigan Chemistry Council: “The operation of Line 5 and plans to build the Great Lakes Tunnel are critical to Michigan’s energy infrastructure, now and into the future. That’s why Michigan’s chemistry industry supports Line 5 and the tunnel project and hopes to see the project continue moving forward soon.”

Leading Michigan voices from labor, business and industry have formed the Great Lakes Michigan Jobs coalition, and have filed individual public comments in support of the Tunnel project. They work together, encouraging state and federal 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.

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

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