

GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, July 22, 2020

GLBN Contact: Jim Lively, coordinating director for Great Lakes Business Network, 231-360-7222

Media Contact: Gabby Abel, Byrum & Fisk Communications, 734-731-2770

Business leaders urge Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to shut down Line 5

LANSING, Mich. – Business leaders from the **Great Lakes Business Network** are urging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to use her executive power to revoke **Enbridge Energy's** Line 5 easement after the company refused to provide financial assurances for the pipeline.

"For years Enbridge has been dodging the terms of their Line 5 easement in the Straits of Mackinac," **Larry Bell**, founder and president of **Bell's Brewery** said. "Now is the time for the Governor to step up and defend the public trust in our Great Lakes and hold Enbridge accountable. They are blatantly risking our Great Lakes and are not even willing to insure against the full cost of damages. Governor Whitmer must revoke their easement and protect our Great Lakes."

"Enbridge's unwillingness to make the required financial commitments is yet another example of how this foreign company operates outside of the rules and regulations that other Michigan businesses are held to," **Rich Bergmann**, owner of **Round Lake Group, LLC** said. "Governor Whitmer must hold Enbridge accountable and revoke the Line 5 operating easement in the Straits immediately to prioritize the health of the Great Lakes and regional economy."

"Enbridge's refusal to commit in writing to pledge the financial resources of its parent company to pay for any damages that result from a Line 5 event demonstrates their lack of concern for the Great Lakes and the citizens of Michigan," **Dick Dinon**, partner at **Wineguys Restaurant Group** said. "We urge Governor Whitmer to prioritize the prosperity of Michigan businesses and communities that depend on these waters and permanently decommission Line 5 by revoking the operating easement in the Straits."

"We commend the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for requesting that Enbridge confirm their financial responsibility for the hazardous and risky Line 5 dual pipeline," **Juliette King McAvoy, King Orchards** said. "The current financial agreement by only a subsidiary of Enbridge is designed to shirk responsibility and leaves Michiganders exposed to what could be generations of financial burden in the event of a catastrophe. Enbridge's dismissal of DNR

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Director Dan Eichinger's request is evidence that they are not willing or capable of fulfilling their financial responsibility. We urge Governor Whitmer to put Michiganders, and our future generations, first and revoke Enbridge's easement immediately."

"There are many issues facing our great state of Michigan right now. As a small business owner in Northern Michigan, I have very much felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic first-hand, but I stand by Governor Whitmer's continued actions to help stop the spread of COVID-19,"

Grant Piering, owner of **Grant Piering LLC** said. "The economy will always have good times and bad. Politics will always sway from one side to another, but our Great Lakes are here to stay no matter what the current political or economic situation looks like. We must use this unprecedented time to preserve these lakes for ourselves and for future generations and dismantle all threats that they face. I urge Governor Whitmer to take urgent action and revoke the easement for Line 5 before the inevitable happens."

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