



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, March 12, 2021

Contact: Stephanie Cepak, Byrum & Fisk Advocacy Communications, scepak@byrumfisk.com

Great Lakes Business Network praises plan outlining alternatives to Line 5

Enbridge Energy must comply with shutdown by May 12

LANSING, Mich. – The **Great Lakes Business Network (GLBN)** praised a plan released today highlighting viable and safer alternatives to propane distribution across Michigan as the state shuts Line 5 starting May 12.

The MI Propane Security Plan released by the **Michigan Public Service Commission; Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy; Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget**, outlines a path away from the nearly 70-year-old oil pipeline running beneath the Straits of Mackinac.

“We all remember the Kalamazoo River oil spill under Enbridge Energy’s watch,” said **Joe Short**, owner of **Short’s Brewing** in Bellaire. “Line 5 is an environmental ticking time bomb and I’m pleased to see Gov. Gretchen Whitmer standing up to Enbridge, finding alternatives and protecting our Great Lakes and Pure Michigan way of life.”

Michigan’s five-step MI Propane Security Plan ensures the state’s energy needs are met when the Enbridge oil pipeline shuts down includes:

1. Stopping price gouging on propane so corporations can’t use the shut down as an excuse to raise rates.
2. Investing in renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrification to bring down long-term costs.
3. Sending clear signals to encourage market participants to invest in alternative sourcing options.
4. Ramping up state investment in rail and propane storage infrastructure.
5. Monitoring supply and coordinate responses to potential disruptions with the energy industry.

“Line 5 was given a 50-year life span, yet this infrastructure continues to age below our waterways, threatening our source of clean drinking water,” said **Nick VanCourt, Barrel and Beam** in Marquette. “U.P. businesses appreciate seeing alternatives to the Line 5 pipeline being proposed in this plan. We recognize that we can’t allow this oil pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac to continue to jeopardize the health of our Great Lakes.”

“At every turn and on every TV channel, Canadian Enbridge continues to fight Michigan’s efforts to protect the Great Lakes.” said **Chris Sack, Great Lakes Tea and Spice** in Glen Arbor.

“As a rural northern Michigan business, I am here to say that we don’t need the kind of business Enbridge is running in Michigan and there are viable alternatives to Line 5 that won’t risk our livelihoods and drinking water.”

###