

GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

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Business Leaders Continue Call for Line 5 Shutdown After Damning Climate Expert Testimony

The Michigan Climate Action Network and the Environmental Law and Policy Center recently released expert testimony demonstrating the severe climate impacts of Line 5. This review was conducted as part of the environmental analysis of Enbridge's oil tunnel proposal before the Michigan Public Service Commission. The Great Lakes and the globally unique environment they create has already proven to be especially vulnerable to climate change, having warmed 33% more than other regions in the lower 48 states. The testimony spelled out devastating social and economic consequences of continuing operations of Line 5 prompting concern from business leaders around the Great Lakes region.

"Building an oil and gas tunnel that will contribute 27 million metric tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere annually as we stare down a global climate crisis is simply reckless," said **Noah Marshall-Rashid** of American Spoon, "We must shutdown Line 5 and reject Enbridge's ill-conceived oil tunnel proposal outright to protect the Great Lakes economy and the distinct climate that supports it. As a small business deeply connected to Michigan agriculture, we're seeing increased impacts from climate change every year."

"Adding tens or hundreds of billions of dollars in climate costs is too high of a price tag, especially when electrification is the obvious solution," noted **Bob Sutherland** of Cherry Republic, "With so many viable clean energy options, including heat pumps, there is no reason to tie future generations to costly and polluting fossil fuel infrastructure. Experts are clear, Line 5 must be shut down to avoid catastrophic climate impacts for the region and financial hardship for the Great Lakes economy."

"At a time where we're already seeing rapid warming and increasingly unpredictable weather, we're simply running out of time to act," said **Juliette King McAvoy** of King's Orchards, "Our crops depend on a stable and consistent climate, but with the increased rainfall and warming predicted in this expert testimony, we have no choice but to do our part to stave off the worst impacts today. That means phasing out existing fossil fuel infrastructure, investing in clean energy, and denying any new fossil fuel permits. Flatly, it means rejecting Enbridge's oil tunnel proposal and shuttering Line 5 as soon as possible."

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