

# GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

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## **Great Lakes Business Network Files Amicus Brief Supporting Michigan in Line 5 Dispute**

LANSING, Mich. (March 23, 2022) -- The Great Lakes Business Network filed an amicus brief before U.S. Circuit Court with Judge Janet Neff in the Enbridge v. Whitmer case, supporting the state of Michigan's right and duty to protect the Great Lakes over the interest of Canadian energy giant, Enbridge Energy.

Enbridge currently illegally operates a nearly 70-year-old oil pipeline, called Line 5, in the heart of the Great Lakes. After years of Enbridge failing to operate that pipeline with due care, Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources revoked Enbridge's easement to operate Line 5 in November of 2020 to protect the Great Lakes from an inevitable rupture that could contaminate up to 700 miles of Great Lakes shoreline with oil, that would span across Michigan, Wisconsin, and Canada. Following that revocation, Enbridge has sued the state of Michigan claiming no states have a right to protect the Great Lakes from oil pipelines even though the company is violating its easement, the agreements it has made with the state, and tribal treaty rights.

The Great Lakes Business Network, which is a growing coalition of over 200 businesses, opposes the continued operation of Line 5 in the Great Lakes as well as Enbridge's blatant legal attacks that attempt to strip citizens of their right to clean drinking water.

"Upholding Michigan's right to protect the Great Lakes, for our way-of-way and our regional economies, is imperative. Enbridge's efforts to dismantle core state and tribal water rights, putting profit over life, needs to be rejected fully. Allowing Enbridge to operate Line 5 to failure is a direct threat to our businesses and jeopardizes generations of life that Michigan and President Biden have a duty to protect." Juliette King McAvoy, GLBN Co-Chair & Project Manager, King Orchards

"Energy experts in both the United States and Canada have said an orderly shutdown of Line 5 will have little to no impact. The Great Lakes hold 20% of the world's freshwater, which millions of people depend on for drink. This water will only become more critical as we continue to face climate change. A planned shutdown of this pipeline is the only option to protect energy security, jobs and start a just transition that prioritizes the health of our planet and people over the interest of oil corporations." – Bob Sutherland, GLBN Co-Chair & President, Cherry Republic

A copy of the Great Lakes Business Network's amicus brief is available upon request.

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