

# GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 24, 2023

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## Great Lakes Business Leaders React to Further Line 5 Tunnel Delay and news of Canadian Great Lakes Funding

Today, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) announced that they will be delaying their decision on Enbridge's proposed Line 5 oil tunnel by another 1.5 years after receiving over 17,000 comments from the public during the scoping process. This decision comes on the heels of President Biden's meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau yesterday and the news that Canada will begin investing meaningfully in Great Lakes restoration.

Business leaders from around the region applauded the news noting that while this funding is vital to the health of the Great Lakes, Line 5 could destroy all of those investments. Additionally, the Great Lakes Business Network (GLBN) called attention to the fact that Enbridge's timeline for the proposed tunnel has long been wildly unrealistic and continues to suggest a lack of seriousness from the company.

**Elizabeth McNicholas of Chicago-based McNicholas Architects** and board member of GLBN noted that, "While we appreciate this strong federal scrutiny and deserved Canadian investment, ultimately, rejecting this oil tunnel is the only option for the health of our communities and the six trillion dollar regional economy that depends on our freshwater resources. Together, both countries must work toward a regional transition strategy and stop pretending that Line 5 is anything other than an unacceptable risk to the Great Lakes."

"We urge President Biden to eliminate this threat to our freshwater resources and the jobs that depend upon them. Every minute that Line 5 operates, our communities are under imminent threat of an oil spill from the nearly 70-year old pipeline. Today's Army Corps delay gives further cause to revoke Line 5's permit or formally intervene to defend state rights and tribal sovereignty from a Canadian company that continues to unabashedly break Michigan's laws," said **Noah Marshall Rashid of American Spoon** and GLBN board member.

"New Canadian funding to support Great Lakes restoration priorities will be critical to the continued health and vitality of the region, said **Darryl Macmillan of Pelee Island Winery** and GLBN, "Our business depends on healthy Great Lakes and this sustained

new investment will go a long way to mitigate the threat of invasive species, clean up Areas of Concern, prioritize habitat restoration, and eliminate harmful algal blooms.”

Earlier this week GLBN Co-Chairs co-authored this opinion piece calling on President Biden to act on Line 5:

<https://www.bridgemi.com/guest-commentary/opinion-president-biden-needs-stand-can-ada-shut-down-line-5>

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