



Great Lakes Businesses Call to Shut Down Line 5, Uphold Tribal Sovereignty

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ANN ARBOR, Mich. (Oct 18, 2023) — In a [friend-of-the-court brief filed Tuesday](#), more than 200 businesses spanning the Great Lakes region asked the U.S. Court of Appeals to support the Bad River Band's battle to uphold sovereignty and order the Enbridge-owned oil pipeline Line 5 removed from their reservation. The businesses, part of the Great Lakes Business Network, showed the Court that when Line 5 is shut down on the Reservation, oil supplies, gasoline prices, and jobs will be largely unaffected. The markets will find alternative modes of transporting Line 5 fuels.

"An orderly shutdown of Line 5 means we are protecting our energy resources, our Great Lakes economy, and protecting tribal sovereignty, along with state rights," said Bob Sutherland, President of Cherry Republic and GLBN co-chair. "When forced to testify under oath, Enbridge's own experts admit that Line 5 can be shut down without adverse impacts on prices or fuel supplies or jobs."

"Replacing all the fuels carried by Line 5 really is a worst-case scenario that assumes that our region and North America will continue to use fossil fuels in the future like we have in the past. We know that's not true. Clean energy use is rapidly accelerating and fossil fuels use is declining. But even if you wanted to replace every barrel of oil and propane from Line 5, the experts agree that you could do so quickly by other pipelines, rail, and ships."

The case is an appeal from a federal lower court decision that finds Enbridge is illegally and willfully trespassing on the Band's Reservation lands and orders Enbridge to shut down Line 5. But that decision allows the trespass to continue for three more years because of concerns over economic impacts. The Business Network brief assures the appellate court that based on the financial experience and acumen of its 200 businesses, the real danger is not the shutdown of Line 5, but a rupture of the pipeline that would devastate the Great Lakes and destroy the businesses of Business Network members and countless others in the region.

The Business Network has joined the Bad River Band in asking the U.S. Court of Appeals to enforce a real injunction and not three more years of trespass.

GREAT LAKES BUSINESS NETWORK

The GLBN, comprised of businesses deeply rooted in the Great Lakes region, recognizes the impending peril if Enbridge is permitted to continue operating Line 5 until failure. Expert reports have provided irrefutable evidence of the catastrophic ecological and economic damages that would result from a Line 5 rupture, coupled with Enbridge's alarming record of spills and damage along the pipeline.

The Great Lakes Business Network is a coalition of businesses dedicated to preserving the integrity and vitality of the Great Lakes, fostering sustainable business practices, and advocating for policies that protect the environment and the economy of the Great Lakes region. It is co-managed by the National Wildlife Federation and Groundwork for Resilient Communities. Learn more at glbusinessnetwork.com