



Great Lakes Business Leaders Condemn Line 5 Ruling

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ANN ARBOR, Mich. (December 1, 2023) — Today, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved Enbridge's Line 5 tunnel siting permit. Business leaders from around the region expressed resounding disappointment at this decision. The new oil tunnel and continued operation of Line 5 poses risks to the climate, the health of the Great Lakes, and the businesses that rely on them. These risks are disproportionately borne by Michiganders and Michigan businesses, while the benefits will be realized by a Canadian corporation with a history of pipeline failures and oil spills in Michigan. Experts have projected that emissions from the Line 5 tunnel would top 27 million metric tons of carbon, as opposed to a scenario in which the pipeline is shuttered. The PSC decision supports a significant, long-term source of greenhouse gas emissions at a moment which calls for investments that will instead improve air quality and community health, and a more stable climate.

"Bell's Brewery and other pragmatic businesses operating with a multigenerational perspective recognize the importance of abating greenhouse emissions immediately, while protecting the ecosystem services and inherent value of natural systems – especially the world's largest body of fresh water," said **Carrie Yunker, Executive Vice President of Bell's Brewery**. "We are disappointed that today's decision fails to recognize these imperatives to creating a more robust and resilient Michigan economy. Despite this setback, we at Bell's and our peers in the GLBN will continue to advocate for policy solutions that are in the best long-term interests of Michigan and Michiganders."

"Today's ruling by the Public Service Commission is a major step backward for our region and our planet," said **Juliette King-McAvoy, of King Orchards**. "Enbridge's oil tunnel risks our livelihoods, our public health, and over twenty percent of the world's freshwater. This is a bad project made worse by Enbridge's track record of repeated safety failures. Businesses from around the region will continue to unite against this scheme."

"The fight against this oil tunnel is far from over despite this short-sighted decision from the PSC today," said **Bob Sutherland, President of Cherry Republic** in response to the news. "The decision ignores current economic realities, tribal sovereignty, and sound science. We will continue to explore all avenues to ensure that this pipeline threat to the Great Lakes is eliminated."

"Approval of Enbridge's untested oil tunnel is baffling," said **Rich Bergmann, Managing Partner of Round Lake Group LLC**. "Studies have shown time and again that there exists a range of Line 5 replacement options that are both commercially viable and operationally feasible that do not include the construction of an underground tunnel unlike anything we have seen before in the world."

"Imperiling the Great Lakes for the sake of new fossil fuel infrastructure during this time of climate crisis makes no common sense and certainly no business sense," said **Peter Laing, Owner of MAWBY Sparkling Wines**, "Experts testified that the climate costs of this tunnel alone would skyrocket over \$41 billion dollars. Today's decision by the MPSC defies all sound logic and poses a real threat to our freshwater economy."

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“The Michigan PSC has acted prematurely with this decision, approving the permit for a tunnel that both Enbridge’s own board, and the US Army Corps of Engineers have not signed off on,” said **Ian Bund, Co-Owner of Angell Farm LLC**. “It is unfathomable that the PSC would approve this permit without an updated feasibility of the tunnel or the true costs of constructing it.”

“While the Commission argued for the need of a tunnel to safeguard the Great Lakes from an oil spill, they completely failed to take into consideration that throughout the many years of construction of Enbridge’s tunnel project, 22.7 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids will continue to be pumped through the heart of the Great Lakes every single day” said **Ella Skrocki, Owner of Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak**. “What a remarkable disrespect to the people and businesses of the Great Lakes Region whose health & livelihoods rely on the protections of our invaluable freshwater ecosystem.”

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 National Wildlife Federation and Groundwork for Resilient Communities. Learn more at glbusinessnetwork.com

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