



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Line 5 Tunnel 404 Permit Approval Brings Condemnation from Leaders Across the Great Lakes Business Community

Across the region, business leaders are denouncing the conditional approval of Enbridge's 404 permit application for their Line 5 tunnel. They argue that this permit should clearly have been denied because of the potential catastrophic impacts to the Great Lakes, and underscore that doing so was a direct violation of Governor Whitmer and EGLE's mission to uphold Michigan's public trust doctrine. Businesses around the region decried the news and have committed to challenging what they characterized as a "meritless" and "gutless" decision.

"Today's permit decision ignores the voices of the people who paddle, fish and even surf on the Great Lakes," said Patagonia Fulton Market's Jason Wilhite. "It prioritizes one foreign company's bottom line above the long-term health of the Great Lakes and our regional outdoor recreation economy."

"The Great Lakes are the backbone of our region," said Peter Laing of MAWBY Sparkling Wines. "EGLE's decision fails to recognize that long-term economic strength depends on protecting the natural assets that millions of businesses and families like mine rely on every day."

"My business uses water from the Great Lakes every day for our operations," said Bob Sutherland, Founder and owner of Cherry Republic and a co-founder of the GLBN. "Line 5 poses a direct threat to our bottom line and this decision is indefensible. The hundreds of businesses like ours across the Great Lakes Business Network will not accept it as the final word."

"The oil industry is one of the most powerful forces in the world, and that power is on display today," noted Kate Jakubas of Meliora Cleaning Products. "EGLE and Governor Whitmer failed to weigh real risks of this decision, valuing short-term convenience and political expediency over the future of Michigan's economy and natural resources."

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“The beautiful beaches of Lake Michigan are a major draw for tourism to Northern Michigan, who then come to our farm to shop, pick fruit, and support our small business. Not to mention that we rely on stable and clean water sources to grow our fruit and vegetable” said Juliette King McAvoy of King Orchards. “Line 5 poses a direct threat to our bottom line and this decision is indefensible. The hundreds of businesses like ours across the Great Lakes Business Network will not accept it as the final word.”

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